

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

## PRIME MINISTER

SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER, MR. R.J.L. HAWKE,  
AT OPENING OF RICHMOND CAMPAIGN, MURWILLUMBAH,  
WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 1984

THE THREE IMPORTANT BY-ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON 18TH FEBRUARY - FOR RICHMOND AND HUGHES IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND CORANGAMITE IN VICTORIA - FALL ALMOST AT THE END OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA CHOSE SO CONVINCINGLY ON THE FIFTH OF MARCH 1983.

WE WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRAST OUR PERFORMANCE IN OUR FIRST YEAR WITH THE RECORD OF OUR PREDECESSORS, IN ALL THEIR SEVEN WASTED, AND ULTIMATELY DISASTROUS, YEARS.

WE WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESTATE OUR GOALS FOR AUSTRALIA IN THE YEARS AHEAD - FOR THE TERM OF THIS PARLIAMENT AND FAR BEYOND.

AND WE WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH THESE BY-ELECTIONS OFFER FOR A PUBLIC SCRUTINY AND A PUBLIC ACCOUNTING - AS TO THE ROLE AND RECORD OF OUR POLITICAL OPPONENTS; BECAUSE IN OUR SYSTEM, THE STANDARDS AND INTEGRITY OF OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP ARE A VITAL FACTOR IN ITS PROPER AND EFFECTIVE OPERATION.

THESE BY-ELECTIONS OCCUR ALMOST A YEAR TO THE DAY THAT I HAD THE HONOUR TO DELIVER THE POLICY SPEECH ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY - AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE ON THE SIXTEENTH OF FEBRUARY 1983.

2.

AND I SAY, WITHOUT QUALIFICATION, THAT NO GOVERNMENT IN THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA HAS MOVED SO PROMPTLY AND SO EFFECTIVELY TO HONOUR THE UNDERTAKINGS WE GAVE TO THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA ONLY ONE YEAR AGO.

IT HAS BEEN A CONTINUING PROCESS OF HONOURING OUR PROMISES, BOTH IN THE SPIRIT AND IN THE LETTER.

IT HAS BEEN A DOUBLE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING SPECIFIC UNDERTAKINGS, ONE BY ONE, AND AT THE SAME TIME, WORKING STEADILY TOWARDS OUR GREATER GOALS AND WIDER VISION FOR AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALIANS, WHEREVER THEY LIVE.

AND ALTHOUGH OUR PROPOSALS WERE PUT FORWARD IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR FIRST PARLIAMENT - A THREE-YEAR PROGRAM - THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY - NEARLY 90 PERCENT OF THEM - HAVE BEEN FULLY HONOURED OR SET IN TRAIN WITHIN OUR FIRST YEAR.

I REPEAT: THIS IS A RECORD OF PERFORMANCE UNEXCELLED IN THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA.

THAT PERFORMANCE IS ALL THE MORE REMARKABLE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONSTRAINTS AND BURDENS AND THE FRUSTRATIONS IMPOSED ON US - AND ON AUSTRALIA ITSELF - BY THE ECONOMIC MESS WE INHERITED FROM OUR OPPONENTS IN GOVERNMENT AND BY THEIR SPOILING TACTICS IN THE SENATE IN OPPOSITION.

3.

THIS IS NOT A TIME WHEN AUSTRALIANS ARE IN A MOOD TO RAKE OVER THE PAST, OR TO INDULGE IN RECRIMINATIONS.

THE SURVEYS SHOW THIS IS A TIME OF THE HIGHEST OPTIMISM, AND, I BELIEVE, THE HIGHEST NATIONAL SELF-CONFIDENCE SINCE AT LEAST 1973.

IN A WAY THAT WE HAVE NOT KNOWN FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, AUSTRALIANS - WHATEVER THEIR POLITICAL ALLEGIANCES - ARE LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, AND LOOKING TO THAT FUTURE WITH WELL-FOUNDED CONFIDENCE.

BUT NEVERTHELESS, IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE TO MAKE AN INTELLIGENT JUDGMENT OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S RECORD, AND AUSTRALIA'S PERFORMANCE IN OUR FIRST YEAR, WITHOUT PUTTING IT INTO THE CONTEXT, WITHOUT RECALLING WHAT WE FACED WHEN THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA PUT US INTO GOVERNMENT ON THE FIFTH OF MARCH 1983.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, WE INHERITED A PROJECTED BUDGET DEFICIT OF \$9.6 BILLION, AS AGAINST THE \$6 BILLION DEFICIT CLAIMED BY OUR PREDECESSORS DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

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IT WAS ON THE BASIS OF THOSE OFFICIAL, SOLEMN, ASSURANCES BY THE THEN PRIME MINISTER, THE THEN TREASURER, NOW THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY - THE THEN MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, NOW THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, AND THE THEN MINISTER FOR DEFENCE, NOW THE LEADER OF THE NATIONAL PARTY, THAT WE INCLUDED IN OUR TOTAL PACKAGE FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY, A PROPOSAL FOR THE CUTS IN PERSONAL TAXATION.

AS SOON AS SOMETHING OF THE TRUTH ABOUT THE REAL STATE OF AFFAIRS AND THE ENORMOUS BLOW-OUT OF THE BUDGET DEFICIT BEGAN TO EMERGE DURING THE CAMPAIGN, WE WARNED THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA ABOUT ITS INEVITABLE IMPLICATIONS FOR THAT PARTICULAR PROPOSAL - AT LEAST IN OUR FIRST BUDGET.

THAT WAS THE ONLY RESPONSIBLE COURSE. IT WAS THE ONLY COURSE OF INTEGRITY.

THEN OF COURSE, AFTER THE ELECTION, THE ENORMITY OF THE CONCEALMENT, AND THE ENORMOUSNESS OF THE PROJECTED BUDGET DEFICIT, WAS AT LAST REVEALED.

AND IT WAS IN THAT CONTEXT - THE CONTEXT OF A PROJECTED BUDGET DEFICIT OF \$9.6 BILLION - THAT WE HAD TO UNDERTAKE OUR PLEDGE TO BRING ABOUT NATIONAL RECOVERY AND NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION IN AUSTRALIA.

AND SIDE BY SIDE WITH THAT DAUNTING TASK, WE HAD TO UNDERTAKE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIFIC PLEDGES I HAD MADE TO THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY - THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LABOR'S PROGRAM OF REFORM, PROGRESS AND EQUITY.

AND NOW, ALMOST ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRESENTATION OF THAT PROGRAM TO THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE, JUST LET'S BRIEFLY RUN THROUGH A CHECKLIST OF THE PROMISES AGAINST THE PERFORMANCE.

AT THE OUTSET OF THAT SPEECH A YEAR AGO, I SAID THIS:

"THE FIRST PLEDGE I NOW MAKE, A COMMITMENT WHICH EMBRACES EVERY OTHER UNDERTAKING, IS THAT EVERYTHING WE DO AS A GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE THE ONE GREAT GOAL - TO REUNITE THIS GREAT COMMUNITY OF OURS, TO BRING OUT THE BEST WE ARE TRULY CAPABLE OF, TOGETHER, AS A NATION, AND BRING AUSTRALIA TOGETHER TO WIN OUR WAY THROUGH THE CRISIS INTO WHICH THE POLICIES OF THE PAST AND THE MEN OF THE PAST HAVE PLUNGED OUR COUNTRY."

AND NOW - A SHORT YEAR ON, I BELIEVE I CAN SAY, WITH COMPLETE CONVICTION AND SINCERITY, THAT WE HAVE FULFILLED THAT UNDERTAKING; AND THAT THE NEW SPIRIT OF OPTIMISM AND CONFIDENCE WHICH IS SO MANIFESTLY ABROAD

THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA AND AMONG ALL SECTIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY, IS THE EVIDENCE THAT WE HAVE FULFILLED THAT PLEDGE.

WE PROMISED THAT THE WHOLE BASIS OF OUR ECONOMIC POLICY WOULD BE TO MAKE A COMBINED ATTACK ON THE TWIN PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION SIMULTANEOUSLY. THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE DOING.

WE UNDERTOOK TO ESTABLISH THE PRICES AND INCOMES POLICY, AS AN EXTENSION IN THE FIELD OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY OF THE PRICES AND INCOMES ACCORD ALREADY REACHED BETWEEN THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY AND THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS. THE ACCORD IS WORKING, BECAUSE ALL THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES TO THE ACCORD ARE DETERMINED THAT IT SHALL WORK.

UNDER THE ACCORD THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANNUALLY REVIEW INCOME TAX SCALES SO THAT THE TAX BURDEN WILL NOT RISE AUTOMATICALLY WITH INFLATION.

IN THE AUGUST BUDGET MY GOVERNMENT WILL AIM TO DO TWO THINGS: TO CONTAIN THE BUDGET DEFICIT AND TO PROVIDE, TO THE EXTENT WE ARE ABLE, SIGNIFICANT INCOME TAX REDUCTIONS TO LOWER AND MIDDLE INCOME EARNERS.

THESE TAX REDUCTIONS WOULD ENCOURAGE THE COMMUNITY GENERALLY AND THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT SPECIFICALLY TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE ACCORD - AS THEY HAVE BEEN DOING SO WELL TO DATE.

WE UNDERTOOK TO ESTABLISH THE ECONOMIC PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL IS NOW OPERATING EFFECTIVELY.

WE PROMISED TO RESTORE ECONOMIC GROWTH TO THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY. THAT IS BEING ACHIEVED.

DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR - FOR WHICH THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE - THERE WAS NEGATIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH - THE ECONOMY WAS GOING BACKWARDS.

THAT WAS THE LEGACY OF SEVEN YEARS OF CONSERVATIVE MISRULE.

BUT THROUGH THIS FINANCIAL YEAR WE EXPECT ECONOMIC GROWTH APART FROM FARM PRODUCTION OF ABOUT 6 PER CENT, AND TOTAL ECONOMIC GROWTH INCLUDING THE RURAL SECTOR OF ABOUT 8 PER CENT. CLEARLY THIS IS A DRAMATIC TURNAROUND.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS ALREADY OCCURRING. IN 1984 IT WILL BECOME EVEN STRONGER.

WE PROMISED TO ARREST THE DECLINE IN EMPLOYMENT THAT WAS OCCURRING UNDER THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT.

THAT HAS BEEN DONE.

OVER 150,000 NEW JOBS HAVE BEEN CREATED SINCE WE CHANGED THE COURSE OF ECONOMIC POLICY AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN APRIL.

UNEMPLOYMENT HAS ALREADY STARTED TO FALL.

WE PROMISED TO CREATE 500,000 NEW JOBS IN OUR FIRST THREE YEARS OF GOVERNMENT. WE ARE WELL ON TARGET.

WE PROMISED TO REDUCE INFLATION. THAT IS BEING ACHIEVED.

INFLATION IS NOW BELOW DOUBLE DIGIT RATES AND WILL CONTINUE TO FALL.

THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF AUSTRALIA IS BEING RESTORED.

WE PROMISED AN ACCELERATED CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM. THAT HAS BEEN DONE.



WE PROMISED TO ESTABLISH THE COMMUNITY WORKS PROGRAM. THAT HAS BEEN DONE.

WE PROMISED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PRIVATE SECTOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THAT HAS BEEN DONE.

WE UNDERTOOK TO ESTABLISH THE JOBS ON ROADS PROGRAM. THAT HAS BEEN DONE.

WE OFFERED SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SMALL BUSINESS. THAT PROGRAM IS BEING PROGRESSIVELY IMPLEMENTED.

WE PROMISED A PETROL PRICE REDUCTION. IT'S HAPPENED.

WE PROMISED A MASSIVE BOOST FOR THE HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. WE HAVE PROVIDED IT.

WE PLEDGED ASSISTANCE FOR FIRST HOME BUYERS TO BRIDGE THE DEPOSIT GAP. WE HAVE GIVEN IT.

WE SAID WE WOULD MAINTAIN A VIABLE STEEL INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA. WE FULFILLED THAT PLEDGE.

WE GAVE UNDERTAKINGS ON ASSISTANCE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE INDUSTRY. WE ARE HONOURING THOSE UNDERTAKINGS.

WE GAVE UNDERTAKINGS FOR SUPPORT FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES. THOSE UNDERTAKINGS ARE BEING HONOURED.

IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD, WE UNDERTOOK TO BRING THE BASIC PENSION RATE PROGRESSIVELY UP TO 25 PERCENT OF AVERAGE MALE WEEKLY EARNINGS. THAT PROMISE IS WELL ON SCHEDULE.

WE HAVE HONOURED OUR PROMISE TO CUT THE LAG ON PENSION ADJUSTMENTS, ACCORDING TO CPI MOVEMENTS, FROM FOUR MONTHS TO ONE MONTH.

WE HAVE HONOURED OUR PROMISE TO INDEX PENSIONER FRINGE BENEFITS.

WE HAVE HONOURED OUR PROMISE ON THE INCREASE OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

WE ARE IMPLEMENTING OUR PROMISE TO DEVELOP THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROGRAM.

FROM THE 1ST FEBRUARY, MEDICARE WILL OPERATE - AND AT LAST THERE WILL BE A RETURN TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF THE RIGHT OF ALL AUSTRALIANS TO HEALTH SERVICES ACCORDING TO THEIR MEDICAL NEEDS.

ALL OUR UNDERTAKINGS ON EDUCATION, INCLUDING OUR ASSURANCES TO THE PARENTS OF NON-GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ALIKE, ARE BEING HONOURED.

OUR SPORTS AND RECREATION PROGRAM IS BEING FULLY IMPLEMENTED.

SO TOO ARE OUR UNDERTAKINGS OF SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS; OUR UNDERTAKINGS ON BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS, ESPECIALLY AS THEY AFFECT THE RURAL AND MORE REMOTE COMMUNITIES OF AUSTRALIA; OUR SUPPORT FOR THE TOURIST INDUSTRY. EVERY UNDERTAKING WE MADE TO THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA IS BEING HONOURED.

WE HAVE PASSED THE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION, AS PROMISED.

WE ARE HONOURING OUR COMMITMENTS TO ELECTORAL REFORM, LAW REFORM, AND PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM.

IN TWO GREAT AREAS OF REFORM - CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND TAX REFORM - WE HAVE HAD TO STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SPOILING TACTICS OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE.

IN THE POLICY SPEECH A YEAR AGO, I COMMITTED A LABOR GOVERNMENT TO WIPE OUT TAX AVOIDANCE AND TAX EVASION.

I NOW REAFFIRM OUR UTTER COMMITMENT TO THAT PURPOSE. THE MANDATE GIVEN BY THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA A YEAR AGO ON THAT ISSUE, WAS CLEAR AND POWERFUL.

YET THREE TIMES, AN OPPORTUNISTIC COALITION IN THE SENATE HAS FRUSTRATED THE CLEAR WILL OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE - NOT JUST THE ELECTED AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT - BUT THE WILL OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE - IN THIS REGARD, TO A COST TO THE AUSTRALIAN TAXPAYERS OF MORE THAN \$300 MILLION.

AND THAT ISSUE - AN ISSUE OF FIRST RATE IMPORTANCE TO THE WELFARE OF AUSTRALIA - ENCAPSULATES THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LABOR GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA AND THE PRESENT OPPOSITION IN THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT.

ON THE ONE HAND, YOU HAVE AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DETERMINED TO HONOUR ITS UNDERTAKINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA, AND DOING SO - I REPEAT - IN A WAY NEVER EXCELLED OR INDEED, NEVER EQUALLED BY ANY GOVERNMENT IN THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA.

ON THE OTHER HAND, AN OPPOSITION OF OPPORTUNISM, CYNICISM, NEGATIVISM AND, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, AN OPPOSITION OF IRRESPONSIBILITY AND LACK OF INTEGRITY.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE POLICIES OF THIS OPPOSITION - WHAT PASSES FOR THEIR POLICIES AND WHAT PASSES FOR AN OPPOSITION - GO FAR BEYOND THE LOSS OF \$300M THEY HAVE INFLICTED ON THE ORDINARY, DECENT TAXPAYERS OF AUSTRALIA BY THEIR MISCHIEF-MAKING IN THE SENATE.

THEY HAVE OPPOSED THE BUDGET MEASURES WE HAVE HAD TO TAKE - AND AS A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, WERE OBLIGED TO TAKE - TO REDUCE THE BUDGET DEFICIT - THE INHERITED BUDGET DEFICIT - AND TO KEEP INTEREST RATES DOWN AND REDUCE INFLATION.

THAT IS, THEY HAVE OPPOSED AT EVERY STEP OUR EFFORTS TO HONOUR OUR CENTRAL COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA - TO FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION SIMULTANEOUSLY AND TO ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC RECOVERY - A RECOVERY THAT WON'T BE LOST IN ANY NEW BOUT OF INFLATION OR ANY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CRISIS.

IF ONE COULD TAKE THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION SERIOUSLY, THE COST OF THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE MEASURES WE HAVE HAD TO TAKE AS A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, WOULD BE \$1.6 BILLION IN THE CURRENT BUDGET AND \$3 BILLION IN A FULL YEAR.

AND THIS AT A TIME WHEN BUSINESS IS AT LAST, IN RESPONSE TO OUR GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES, BEGINNING TO RECOVER FROM THE WORST RECESSION FOR FIFTY YEARS, AND WHEN THE FARMING COMMUNITY IS STRUGGLING BACK TO ITS FEET AFTER THE WORST DROUGHT IN HISTORY.

AND IT'S THAT SORT OF GROSS IRRESPONSIBILITY THAT EXPLAINS COMPLETELY WHY THIS OPPOSITION LACKS ANY CREDIBILITY WHATSOEVER - NOT ONLY WITH THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE, BUT IN THE TWO GREAT AREAS WHICH THE LIBERALS AND THE NATIONALS USED TO CLAIM AS THEIR SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY - THE GREAT BUSINESS COMMUNITY OF AUSTRALIA, AND THE GREAT RURAL SECTOR OF AUSTRALIA.

CREDIBILITY IS AN ISSUE IN THESE BY-ELECTIONS - THE CREDIBILITY OF POLICIES; AND CREDIBILITY IN LEADERSHIP.

I AM NOT HERE TO INDULGE IN PERSONALITIES, EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF THE NEW LEADER OF THE NATIONAL PARTY.

BUT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PARTY AND THE LIBERAL PARTY ARE NOW SUCH THAT THE NATIONAL PARTY'S CHOICE LAST WEEK HAS HUGE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COALITION; AND IT HAS SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WAY IN WHICH THE COUNTRY PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA ARE GOING TO BE REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT.

BECAUSE, MR SINCLAIR'S ELECTION PUTS THE FINAL SEAL ON THE SELL-OUT OF THE COUNTRY PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA BY THE NATIONAL PARTY - A SELL-OUT OF WHICH MR SINCLAIR HAS BEEN THE PRIME ARCHITECT AND THE PRIME MOVER FOR A DECADE.

THE NATIONAL PARTY HAS LONG CEASED TO REPRESENT THE TRUE INTERESTS OF AUSTRALIA'S FARMING AND RURAL COMMUNITY. THEY HAVE SOLD OUT THE AUSTRALIAN FARMER. IT GOES MUCH DEEPER THAN THE DROPPING OF THE TIME-HONOURED "COUNTRY PARTY" NAME. THEY NOW REPRESENT ONLY THE BIG INTERESTS - MAINLY FOREIGN INTERESTS - WHICH BACK THEM FINANCIALLY.

AND AS I SAY, IN THAT PROCESS, MR SINCLAIR HAS LED THE WAY.

AS TO THE LIBERAL PARTY AND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE RURAL COMMUNITY, LET ME REMIND YOU OF THE POINT I MADE IN OUR RURAL POLICY SPEECH DURING THE MARCH CAMPAIGN -

A POINT THAT IS AS VALID TODAY AS IT WAS A YEAR AGO. THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, AT ITS NATIONAL COUNCIL OF MAY 1982 PLACED ON ITS BOOKS A RESOLUTION WHICH THREATENS THE EXISTENCE OF EVERY NATIONAL MARKETING AUTHORITY IN AUSTRALIA. THAT RESOLUTION CALLS FOR THE DISMANTLING OF ALL THE EFFECTIVE POWERS OF THE MARKETING BOARDS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY ARE CONTRARY TO LIBERAL PHILOSOPHY. THAT RESOLUTION OF DESTRUCTION IS STILL ON THEIR BOOKS.

AFTER THE ROUT IN QUEENSLAND, THE LIBERAL PARTY IS MORE THAN EVER A SECTIONAL AND CITY-BASED RUMP.

BUT THE NATIONAL PARTY, ESPECIALLY UNDER ITS NEW LEADERSHIP, HAS ORIENTED ITSELF JUST AS MUCH TO THE BIG CITY INTERESTS WHICH FILL THEIR COFFERS.

IT IS AFTER ALL A SYDNEYSIDER, NOT A LOCAL WHO WILL CONTEST THIS SEAT FOR THE NATIONAL PARTY.

SO FOR THE RURAL COMMUNITY OF AUSTRALIA, THERE IS JUST NO CREDIBILITY LEFT IN THE POLICIES OR LEADERSHIP OF EITHER OF THE COALITION PARTIES.

AND AS FOR THE NATIONAL PARTY, ITS NEW LEADER HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF THE MOST DAMNING, DEVASTATING, COMPLETE AND COMPREHENSIVE JUDICIAL INDICTMENT OF HIS PERSONAL AND POLITICAL CREDIBILITY EVER DELIVERED UPON A LEADING PARLIAMENTARIAN IN THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA.

BUT IN A SENSE WHICH TRANSCENDS PERSONALITIES,  
THE SINCLAIR AFFAIR ENCAPSULATES SO MUCH THAT WAS WRONG AND  
DAMAGING IN THE APPROACH OF THE COALITION TO THE AFFAIRS  
OF THIS NATION.

THEY SOUGHT TO DIVIDE AND RULE.

THEIRS IS THE POLITICS OF DELIBERATE DIVISION,  
THE POLITICS OF CONFRONTATION.

FOR MOST OF THE DECADE UP TO THE 5TH OF MARCH 1983  
THERE HAD BEEN TOO MUCH OF THE SETTING OF AUSTRALIAN AGAINST  
AUSTRALIAN, GROUP AGAINST GROUP, REGION AGAINST REGION.

AND IT WAS BECAUSE A CLEAR MAJORITY OF AUSTRALIANS -  
AUSTRALIANS EVERYWHERE, CITY AND COUNTRY DWELLERS ALIKE -  
SAW THE DAMAGE BEING DONE TO THE VERY FABRIC - ECONOMIC,  
INDUSTRIAL AND SOCIAL - OF THIS NATION, THAT THEY DECISIVELY  
REJECTED THE POLITICS OF CONFRONTATION, THE POLITICS OF  
DIVISION - AND ITS AUTHORS - ON THE 5TH OF MARCH 1983.

AND I BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED  
SINCE THE 5TH OF MARCH SHOWS THE TRUTH OF WHAT WE OF THE  
LABOR PARTY SAID DURING THE CAMPAIGN - THAT THERE IS A BETTER  
WAY - THE LABOR WAY - AND AUSTRALIANS CAN BE BROUGHT  
TOGETHER, WE CAN WORK TOGETHER AND TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A  
BETTER AUSTRALIA - FOR OURSELVES IN OUR OWN TIME, AND FOR  
THE GENERATION TO COME.