



## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT - PRESS CONFERENCE, SEOUL - 6 FEBRUARY 1984 AT SHILLA HOTEL

E AND O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST : CAN WE DEAL WITH THIS GMH THING AND THE REACTION TO THAT ... ARE YOU SURPRISED AT THE LEVEL OF THE REACTION THAT HAS OCCURRED SO FAR FROM NOT ONLY FROM THE OPPOSITION BUT ALSO FROM THE TRADE UNIONS.

P.N.: I AM A LITTLE SURPRISED AT THE WAY WHAT I'VE SAID HAS BEEN PRESENTED. AND I THINK YOU' APPRECIATE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION I NEED TO GIVE A FAIRLY EXTENSIVE ANSWER AND I HOPE IN DOING THAT THAT I'LL MEET ALL THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT MAY BE IN YOUR MINDS.

THE FIRST POINT THAT I WOULD MAKE IS THAT IT COMES AS A LITTLE SURPRISING TO ME THAT THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SOME SUGGESTION GIVEN MY BACKGROUND AND HISTORY THAT WHAT I WOULD BE ABOUT IS THE DESTRUCTION OF JOBS. IN ALL OF MY PUBLIC COMMITMENT, IN THE ACTU AND SINCE I'VE BEEN IN PARLIAMENT, IS TOWARDS THE CREATION OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. AND PERHAPS MOST SPECIFICALLY I CAN PICK UP MY SURPRISE AT THE MISUNDERSTANDING BY JUST LOOKING AT THE STEEL INDUSTRY.

IN THE REPORTING AND REACTION THERE HAS BEEN SOME REFERENCE TO THE LOSS OF JOBS IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY. NOW LET'S REMEMBER THE FACTS. THE FACTS ARE THAT WHEN MY GOVERNMENT CAME TO OFFICE WE WERE CONFRONTED AS YOU ALL KNOW AND AS THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY KNOWS WITH THE DISTINCT LIKELIHOOD THAT AUSTRALIA COULD FACE THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ITS STEEL INDUSTRY. THAT WAS AN OPTION WHICH WAS SERIOUSLY BEING CONTEMPLATED. I SAID ON BEHALF OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT THAT THAT WAS A CONTEMPLATION WHICH WAS NOT TO BE CANVASSED. AND WAS ONE THAT WE WOULD NOT PUT UP WITH AT ALL.

POSITIVELY ON BEHALF OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT THAT WE WOULD IN FACT, WE IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME OF BEING IN GOVERNMENT, BRING IN A STEEL INDUSTRY PLAN FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES OF ENSURING THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD RETAIN A HEALTHY AND VIABLE AND COMPETITIVE STEEL INDUSTRY. AND IN FACT THAT IS WHAT'S HAPPENED. IT IS A MATTER I BELIEVE OF UNIVERSAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT AS A RESULT OF THE PLANNING CONSULTATIVELY THAT WE UNDERTOOK THAT WE SAVED THE AUSTRALIAN STEEL INDUSTRY AND WE SAVED THOUSANDS OF JOBS IN SAVING THE STEEL INDUSTRY.

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NOW IT'S INSTRUCTIVE, I SUGGEST, TO RECALL JUST WHAT WE DID. WE CALLED THE COMPANY, WE CALLED THE UNIONS AND WE CALLED THE GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER. AND TOGETHER WE SET ABOUT WORKING OUT WHAT SORTS OF DECISIONS NEEDED TO BE MADE IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT AND FORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES TO ACHIEVE THE RESULT OF SAVING THE INDUSTRY AND SAVING EMPLOYMENT. THAT WAS NOT RUSHED INTO BUT IN THE RESULT, OUT OF ALL THAT CONSULTATION, WE HAVE, AS I SAY, SAVED THE INDUSTRY AND SAVED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF JOBS DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY.

AND THAT WAS DONE IN A WAY WHICH INVOLVED AN INPUT FROM THE COMPANY, A COMMITMENT TO HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN NEW INVESTMENT, A COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE UNIONS TO ADOPT NEW WORK PRACTICES TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY AND A COMMITMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT TO A FORM OF ASSISTANCE WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT DOWN THE LINE USERS OF STEEL WOULD BE PROTECTED. TO BE PRECISE THE BOUNTY FORM OF ASSISTANCE WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE PLAN.

NOW WHEN YOU HAVE THAT EXAMPLE OF WHAT WE HAVE IN FACT DONE IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY WHICH SAVED THE INDUSTRY AND SAVED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF JOBS DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY YOU CAN PERHAPS UNDERSTAND THAT SO FAR AS I FEEL TO SEE REFERENCE TO PLANNING INVOLVING A LOSS OF JOBS IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY, WHAT WE WERE ABOUT WAS INVOLVING CONSULTATIVE, CO-OPERATIVE PLANNING TO SAVE JOBS AND TO SAVE THEM INTO THE FUTURE.

SIMILARLY IN REGARD TO THE CAR INDUSTRY WHAT I AM SAYING AND WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABOUT WILL BE TO FACE UP TO THE FACT THAT WE ALL KNOW THAT THE TASK HAS SEEN A DIMINUTION, A SIGNIFICANT DIMINUTION, OF EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA. THAT HAS HAPPENED. IT'S HAPPENED IN THE SITUATION WHERE THERE HASNT BEEN SUFFICIENT CONSTRUCTIVE CONSULTATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE INDUSTRY. AND I REMIND YOU THAT WHEN I TALK ABOUT INDUSTRY I TALK ABOUT NOT ONLY EMPLOYERS, BUT I TALK ABOUT THE WORKERS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE INDUSTRY. AND SO WE WILL BE AS FAR AS THAT INDUSTRY IS CONCERNED ADOPTING THE SAME SORT OF PROCESS OF CONSULTATION TO TRY AND MAKE SURE THAT THROUGH CONSULTATION AND PLANNING WE CAN SEE THE EMERGENCE OF A TRULY VIABLE INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER POINTS I WANT TO MAKE, BUT I SHOULD MAKE THIS POINT TO YOU THAT THERE HAS BEEN, AS YOU WOULD APPRECIATE I THINK BECAUSE YOU'VE HEARD WHAT I SAID IN OSAKA AND WHAT I SAID IN JAPAN, I THINK YOU MORE THAN PERHAPS ANYONE WOULD APPRECIATE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DEGREE OF MISUNDERSTANDING AS TO WHAT I'VE SAID. WHEN I'M OVERSEAS REPRESENTING AUSTRALIA I AM NOT GOING TO TAKE UP MY TIME GOING INTO A DETAILED RESPONSE TO POLITICAL ATTACKS OR MISREPRESENTATIONS THAT OCCUR AT HOME WHILE I'M AWAY. I CAN ASSURE EVERYBODY WITHIN AUSTRALIA THAT WHEN I RETURN I WILL PICK UP THE MORE GROTESQUE OF THOSE MISREPRESENTATIONS. LET ME MAKE ONE POINT THAT I THINK IS VERY SIGNIFICANT. THERE HAS BEEN SOME SUGGESTION MADE THAT I HAVE COME OVERSEAS TO MAKE THESE STATEMENTS. NOW I THINK ALL OF YOU HERE KNOW THAT THAT IS AGAIN A GROTESQUE MISREPRESENTATION. IF YOU LOOK AT THE SPEECH I MADE IN SYDNEY ON 10 NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR TO THE SYDNEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN RESPECT OF THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY YOU WILL SEE THAT I SAID THERE PRECISELY THE SORTS OF THINGS THAT I'VE TALKED ABOUT IN JAPAN. AND INDEED NOT ONLY IN THAT SPEECH BUT IN A NUMBER OF SPEECHES THAT I'VE MADE SINCE I'VE BEEN PRIME MINISTER. I HAVE GIVEN THE SAME SORT OF THRUST THAT I HAVE GIVEN IN JAPAN. AS I SAY AS FAR AS THE POLITICS OF ALL THAT MISREPRESENTATION

IS CONCERNED I AM LOOKING FORWARD GREATLY TO PICKING UP THAT DEBATE WHEN I GO BACK TO AUSTRALIA, BECAUSE THAT'S THE PROPER LOCATION TO UNDERTAKE THAT DEBATE. WHILE I'M OVERSEAS I'M HERE REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF AUSTRALIANS AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE INTERESTS OF OUR COUNTRY. LET ME EMPHASISE THE POINT THAT I AGAIN KNOW ALL OF YOU UNDERSTOOD THAT I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO MAKE IN MY SPEECHES IN JAPAN ON THE SUBJECT - IN SPEECHES AND IN CONVERSATIONS WITH YOU PRIVATELY - YOU KNOW THAT AT ALL POINTS I HAVE GONE OUT OF MY WAY TO EMPHASISE THESE THINGS. FIRSTLY, THAT NOTHING IS GOING TO BE DONE BY AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT FIAT, THAT WHAT WE ARE ABOUT IS THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION AND IN THE PROCESSES OF CONSULTATION OF MY GOVERNMENT IN LESS THAN A YEAR IN OFFICE STANDS OUT DRAMATICALLY AS BEING SUCCESSFUL AND AS BEING A COMMITTED UNDERTAKING AND THEY CONTRAST STARKLY WITH THE VIRTUAL LACK OF CONSULTATION WHICH HAS CHARACTERISED GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKING IN THE PAST.

SECONDLY, AGAIN AS I SAID IN THE SPEECHES AND AS I'VE SAID IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH MANY OF YOU, AT ALL POINTS WHAT WE ARE LOOKING AT IS THE MEDIUM TO LONGER TERM - WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE MAKING DECISIONS TODAY OR TOMORROW ABOUT A PARTICULAR INDUSTRY OR ABOUT THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF INDUSTRY. WHAT WE'VE GOT TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT IS HAVING A CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, FULLY INVOLVING GOVERNMENT AND BOTH SIDES OF INDUSTRY AND WHERE RELEVANT, OF COURSE, THE STATE GOVERNMENTS, SO THAT TOGETHER WE CAN ADDRESS OURSELVES TO THE FUNDAMENTALLY IMPORTANT QUESTION OF HOW THROUGH THE MEDIUM AND LONGER TERM WE ARE GOING TO INCREASE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA AND IT WILL BE SELF-DEFEATING IF IN FACT WE WERE TO PROCEED IN ANY OTHER WAY.

WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONVEY WELL BEFORE I LEFT AUSTRALIA AND GIVE ADDED EMPHASIS TO IN JAPAN AND HERE IS THAT WE DO LIVE IN A REGION OF DYNAMIC, RAPID GROWTH AND THAT WE CANNOT ISOLATE OURSELVES FROM THAT FACT. AND THE UNIQUE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENTS IN AUSTRALIA IN 1984 AND THROUGH THE 1980'S IS TO MAKE THOSE DECISIONS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GREAT ELEMENTS OF OUR SOCIETY WHICH ARE GOING TO ENSURE THAT WE, AS I SAY AND I'VE SAID BEFORE - I'VE USED THE PHRASE-THROUGH 'ENMESHING' OURSELVES WITH THIS DYNAMIC REGION CAN GET FOR OURSELVES IN AUSTRALIA THE GREATEST BENEFIT OF THE DYNAMISM OF THE REGION. AND THAT WILL MEAN WHEN SUCCESSFULLY DONE AND SUCCESSFULLY DO IT WE WILL, THROUGH CONSULTATION, THAT WILL MEAN NOT JOB LOSSES IN ANY AGGREGATE SENSE, IT WILL MEAN THROUGH TIME THE CERTAINTY OF CREATING MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUSTRALIANS. AND WHAT WE MUST DO, AND AGAIN THE THEME THAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO EMPHASISE TO YOU AS AGAIN I HAVE IN INNUMERABLE SPEECHES IN AUSTRALIA, IS TO POINT OUT THAT WHEN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THIS YOU CANT TALK ABOUT INDUSTRY ADJUSTMENT IN ISOLATION, YOU'VE GOT TO SEE IT AS PART OF A WHOLE, A WHOLE WHICH INCLUDES POLICIES, DIRECTED TO AN APPROPRIATE MACROECONOMIC STRUCTURE, POLICIES DIRECTED TO AN APPROPRIATE EDUCATION STRUCTURE - SO THAT WE WILL HAVE A RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATELY TRAINED AND FLEXIBLE WORKFORCE WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO ADJUST TO THE CHANGES WHICH OUR CHANGING WORLD WILL DEMAND OF US.

IT WILL ALSO REQUIRE APPROPRIATE INVESTMENT POLICIES, IT WILL REQUIRE APPROPRIATE TRAINING AND RETRAINING POLICIES. NOW I REPEAT, AS AGAIN I THINK EVERYONE OF YOU IN THIS ROOM KNOWS, THE WHOLE OF MY PUBLIC RECORD WITHIN THE TRADE UNIONS MOVEMENT AND IN PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN DIRECTED TOWARDS THE ISSUE OF HOW DO WE MAKE SURE THAT WE GET AWAY FROM THE AD-HOCERY OF THE PAST WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN ADEQUATE IN THOSE DAYS OF THE LUCKY COUNTRY SYNDROME WHEN PERHAPS PLANNING AND CONSULTATION WASNT NECESSARY. TO GET AWAY FROM THAT TOWARDS AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE WE DELIBERATELY WILL BE CREATING JOBS AND CREATING MORE SATISFYING JOBS AND DOING IT WITHIN AN AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY WHICH MAXIMISES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS TO GET THE BENEFIT OF BEING PART OF THIS DYNAMIC REGION.

BUTCH, THAT HAS TAKEN SOME TIME TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, BUT I HOPE I'VE GONE TO THE RANGE OF ISSUES WHICH I THINK ARE RELEVANT. I JUST CONCLUDE ON THE POINT THAT I'M NOT GOING TO DEAL WITH PARTICULAR CONTRIBUTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY MY POLITICAL OPPONENTS IN THE LAST DAY OR SO. BUT I REPEAT I GREATLY LOOK FORWARD TO PICKING THEM UP WHEN I GET BACK TO AUSTRALIA.

JOURNALIST: PRIME MINISTER, YOUR PREDECESSOR, HIS GOVERNMENT ALSO BELIEVED IN LOWERING PROTECTION LEVELS AND RATIONALISING AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY, YET HE DEMONSTRABLY FAILED IN THAT. WHY WOULD YOU SUCCEED.

P.M.: WELL THE POINTS I'D MAKE ABOUT THAT. MAY I JUST MAKE JUST A VERY BRIEF PREPARATORY POINT THAT AS YOU KNOW I HAVEN'S INDULGED SINCE I'VE BEEN IN OFFICE IN THE BUSINESS OF GOING ABOUT BAGGING MY PREDECESSOR, HE SPEAKS FOR HIMSELF IN A SENSE. BUT I DO MAKE THIS FIRST POINT THAT THE SORT OF THINGS THAT MY PREDECESSOR WAS TALKING ABOUT ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE WAS A GRAND SCALE ABOUT THE WORLD WINDING BACK PROTECTION AND AT THE SAME TIME IN AUSTRALIA BEING IN A POSITION WHERE NOTHING WAS DONE THAT WAS IN ANY SENSE CONSISTENT WITH OR RELEVANT TO THAT GRAND SORT OF APPROACH. NOW I SAY THIS THAT WE HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE MODEST IN OUR APPROACH YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE TWO THINGS THAT I HAVE SAID IN MY INTERNATIONAL PROJECTION ON THIS ISSUE. FIRSTLY TO WELCOME THE CALL THAT HAS BEEN MADE BY OTHERS, PRIMARILY BY PRIME MINISTER NAKASONE AND SPECIAL U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE BOCH WHO HAVE CALLED FOR A NEW MTN ROUND. THE FIRST THING I'VE DONE IS TO WELCOME THAT CALL AND SUPPORT IT BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT FOR A GREAT TRADING NATION LIKE AUSTRALIA IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT WE FREE UP THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM.

SECONDLY, THE SPECIFIC INITIATIVE, IF YOU LIKE, WITH WHICH I'VE BEEN ASSOCIATED IS TO SAY IN THAT CONTEXT WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN IDENTIFY AS PART OF THE REGION A REGIONAL INTEREST IN THE APPROACH THAT OUGHT TO BE ADOPTED TO SUCH AN MTN ROUND IF IT IS TO EVENTUATE. AND SO I HAVE SENT ROUND MY REPRESENTATIVES IN ADVANCE OF THIS TRIP TO TALK WITH THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. WE'VE GOT A VERY POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THAT AND SO FAR ON MY OWN VISIT TO THE TWO COUNTRIES THAT I'VE VISITED - JAPAN AND KOREA - I CAN SAY THAT THERE IS A VERY WARM AND POSITIVE RESPONSE. I BELIEVE WE'LL GET THE SAME RESPONSE IN THE COUNTRIES THAT WE'RE STILL TO GO TO. AND THEN FOLLOWING MY VISIT THEN I BELIEVE WE'LL BE AT A RELATIVELY EARLY STAGE IN THE POSITION FOR OUR OFFICIALS THEN TO MEET WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION SO THAT WE CAN REALLY THEN GET DOWN TO SPECIFIC ISSUES THAT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO AUSTRALIA AND THE COUNTRIES OF OUR REGION TO PUT ON THE AGENDA OF SUCH AN MTN ROUND. SO I THINK THERE YOU HAVE A VERY CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE BROAD APPROACH, IF YOU LIKE, A QUITE UNREALISTIC APPROACH OF MY PREDECESSOR, AND A VERY SPECIFIC WAY IN WHICH WE'VE GONE ABOUT IT.

THE SECOND POINT THAT I WOULD MAKE TO DISTINGUISH OUR GOVERNMENT FROM THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT IS THAT WE RECOGNISE THAT YOU CANT TALK ABOUT THESE ISSUES OF AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD IN THE TRADING CONTEXT AS THOUGH THAT IS ONE ISSUE. I'VE TRIED TO MAKE THE POINT THAT YOU HAVE TO HAVE A TOTALLY INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THESE THINGS IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT WORK WITHIN AUSTRALIA IN POLITICAL AND IN ECONOMIC TERMS. IN OTHER WORDS WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THE STRUCTURE OF OUR INDUSTRY, WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT OUR MACROECONOMIC POLICIES, WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT OUR EDUCATION POLICIES IN A WAY WHICH OUT OF CONSULTATION WITH ALL THE RELEVANT ELEMENTS MEANS THAT WE CAN GET A DEGREE OF PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEED FOR CHANGE CAN NEVER BE IMPOSED BY GOVERNMENTS FROM ON TOP. THE ROLE AND THE FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT, AND A CONCERNED GOVERNMENT, IS IF YOU LIKE TO EXPOSE THE FACTS OF THE WORLD TO THE PEOPLE. WE STARTED TO DO THAT IN THE SUMMIT AND WE WERE PROFOUNDLY SUCCESSFUL. AS FAR AS OUR AUSTRALIAN SITUATION IS CONCERNED. WE STARTED THERE THE PROCESS OF PUTTING THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC SITUATION INTO A WORLD CONTEXT AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLAIN, TO CONSULT, SO THAT THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTORATE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT IF FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THE SORT OF ECONOMY WHICH OFFERS THE BEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND FOR EMPLOYMENT, THAT CHANGES WILL HAVE TO OCCUR OUT OF CONSULTATION. AND THAT WHAT YOU'RE DO IN REGARD TO THE STRUCTURE OF INDUSTRY OR TARIFFS IS BUT A PART OF A WHOLE AND THAT IS A BASIC DISTINCTION IN OUR APPROACH TO THAT OF OUR PREDECESSORS.

JOURNALIST: MR HAWKE ARE YOU CLAIMING THAT THERE WONT EVEN BE ANY SHORT TERM JOB LOSS AS THE ECONOMY RESTRUCTURES UNDER THE NEW PROPOSALS.

P.M: NO, IM NOT SAYING THAT. I REFERRED TO THE STEEL INDUSTRY -- THAT THERE WERE JOB LOSSES HISTORICALLY. BUT WHAT I SAID IS THAT IF YOU APPROACH THE SITUATION SENSIBLY THAT YOU CAN ARREST VERY OFTEN BY STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENTS, YOU CAN ARREST THE PROCESS OF JOB LOSS. YOU DONT HAVE TO THINK OF ADJUSTMENTS AS BEING ASSOCIATED WITH JOB LOSS. IT MEANS THAT WHAT WE DID IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY SHOWS THAT SENSIBLE ADJUSTMENT PROCESSES, CONSULTATIVELY UNDERTAKEN, CAN BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SALVATION OF JOBS.

IF YOU LOOK AT THE EXPERIENCE OF JAPAN, THERE IS A COUNTRY WHICH RIGHT THROUGH THE PERIOD OF RECESSION, HAS MAINTAINED AMONGST THE LOWEST LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE WORLD. AND THAT HASNT MEANT THAT AT TIMES IN THE JAPANESE EXPERIENCE THERE HASNT BEEN JOB CHANGE AND JOB TRANSFER - PARTICULAR ENTERPRISE OR PART OF THE ENTERPRISE MAY CEASE TO BE THE MOST PRODUCTIVE WAY OF DOING THINGS BUT THE WHOLE APPROACH IS TO MAKE SUE THAT THROUGH OVERALL PROCESSES OF CONSULTATION AND UNDERSTANDING AND RESTRUCTURING THAT IN NET TERMS YOU SAVE JOBS. UT IT IS THE HEIGHT OF IRRESPONSIBLITY IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE PROFOUND SORT OF THINGS THAT WE ARE, THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA IN THIS RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD, THE HEIGHT OF FOLLY, TO TRY AND UNDERSTAND THAT BY SAYING, OH WELL IF YOU ADOPT THIS APPROACH DOES IT MEAN THAT A A PARTICULAR POINT THERE MAY BE A LOSS OF JOB AND THE NEED FOR RETRAINING AND EDUCATION. OF COURSE IT MAY MEAN THAT. BUT WHAT YOU'VE GOT LOOK AT IS THE AGGREGATE. ARE YOU GOING TO BY ADOPTING THIS OVERALL APPROACH INCREASE THROUGH TIME THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT. FUNDAMENTALLY WE'VE GOT TO REALISE WE ARE A COUNTRY OF 15 1/2 MILLION PEOPLE, 15 1/2 MILLION PEOPLE IN A WORLD OF 4.7 BILLION, AND IN A REGION OF HUNDREDS OF

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN A DYNAMIC GROWTH SITUATION. NOW THE IMPERATIVE FOR GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA IS TO UNDERSTAND THOSE FACTS AND IN DISCUSSION WITH AND IN FULL CONSULTATION WITH AND NOT BY IMPOSITION IS TO ALL US TO WORK TOGETHER TO SEE HOW WE ARE GOING TO GET THE BEST ADVANTAGE FOR AUSTRALIA OF THE DYNAMISM OF THAT REGION. NOW THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN BY SITTING BACK AND SAYING, OH WELL WE DONT HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THIS, WE DONT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT. WE DO HAVE TO, NOT SEE IT AS A GREAT PROBLEM, WE'VE GOT TO SEE IT AS A CHALLENGE WITH GREAT OPPORTUNITIES. AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ABOUT.

JOURNALIST: MR HAWKE YOU STRESSED THAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE MIDDLE AND LONG TERM AND THAT WITHIN A COUPLE OF MONTHS THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE LOOKING AT THE FUTURE OF THE CAR INDUSTRY FROM 1985 ON. HOW DO THOSE TWO THINGS FIT TOGETHER, AND SECONDLY, YOU'VE ALREADY HAD FAIRLY EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS IN THE CAR INDUSTRY THROUGH THE CAR INDUSTRY COUNCIL ... HOW FAR DO YOU SEE THE CAR INDUSTRY AS HAVING ALREADY GONE IN THAT CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AS BROADENING A NEED FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS.

P.M.: YES, OF COURSE THERE WILL BE NEED FOR MUCH MORE CONSULTATION. YOU MAY HAVE INFERRED FROM SOME EARLIER COMMENTS THAT I WAS EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION WITH WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE. IT'S NOT REALLY MY POSITION. I KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE THAT WERE INVOLVED IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS WENT IN IT WITH THE BEST WILL AND IT WAS PROBABLY INEVITABLE THAT THEY WERE NOT OF THEMSELVES GOING TO BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH ANSWERS THAT WERE ACCEPTABLE TO EVERYONE - EVEN TO ALL THE COMPONENTS (WHEN I SAY COMPONENTS IN THAT SENSE I'M USING THE WORD COMPONENTS OF THE INDUSTRY) BECAUSE SOME OF THEM HAD COMPETING INTERESTS. SOME COMPANIES OBVIOUSLY HAD A DIFFERENT INTEREST TO OTHER MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND SO ON.

SO OBVIOUSLY MORE WORK HAS TO BE DONE AND THAT WILL BE DONE. I BELIEVE THAT OUT OF THOSE PROCESSES WE WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE IN 1985 TO A POSITION WHICH WILL MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE INDUSTRY AND THE COMMUNITY.

BUT I WANT TO REPEAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE SITTING DOWN AND SAYING WELL LOOK, WE'VE GIVEN YOU THE OPPORTUNITY FOR TALK, NOW THE GOVERNMENT'S GOING TO IMPOSE SOMETHING ON YOU. THATS NOT THE WAY WE OPERATE.

JOURNALIST: SO WILL THE DECISION ITSELF BE DEFERRED TO...

P.M: WELL THE EXISTING PLAN TAKES US THROUGH 1984. IT'S NOW FEBRAURY OF 1984. THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME FOR MUCH MORE DISCUSSION AND THAT WILL TAKE PLACE.