

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



EMBARGOED UNTIL 8 P.M.

## PRIME MINISTER

SPEECH AT NSW ALP ELECTION CAMPAIGN LAUNCH, SYDNEY, 13 MARCH 1984

FELLOW AUSTRALIANS,

Just over a year ago I spoke at another policy launch for the Australian Labor Party in this great city of yours - in this great city of ours.

I pledged myself and our Party to an unremitting effort to bring Australians together to beat the economic crisis and to end the politics of division and confrontation.

Twelve months later, the Australian community is more cohesive, more united, than it has been in living memory.

Industrial disputation has fallen to historically low levels.

And through this process of reconciliation, consultation and co-operation, we have turned the nation's economy around.

The confidence and self-confidence of the Australian people has been restored.

In all this effort, the people of New South Wales, the business community of New South Wales, the union movement of New South Wales, and the Wran labor Government of New South Wales, have made a magnificent contribution.

Within a month of the swearing in of our Government on the eleventh of March 1983, I convened the National Economic Summit Conference.

All the participants made their contribution, but some were outstanding.

And central to the success of the Summit - not just its work but its spirit - was the role played by the Premier of New South Wales, Neville Wran.

And Neville Wran and his Labor Government of New South Wales have continued to play a crucial role in the great work of building upon the Summit - the great task of national reconciliation, national recovery, and national reconstruction.

And it is absolutely vital for the future of Australia that Neville Wran and his Government continue that work in the critical years ahead.

We know all too well the alternative.

We know all too well the utterly negative attitudes of the Liberals and the Nationals - the Parties of confrontation and conflict, the Parties of denigration and detraction.

They denigrated the Summit.

They derided the concept of consensus.

They denounced the Prices and Incomes Accord - the very key to our strategy for economic recovery.

And now, in their desperation, they are denouncing, deriding, denigrating and defacing the very institutions which make up the fabric and foundations of our free, open, democratic society.

And when we say that experience is a major issue in this New South Wales election, we mean not only the vast experience of Neville Wran and his team in dealing with the immense and complex problems involved in governing Australia's largest State.

We mean your own experience - your own knowledge - of what our opponents really stand for - the old politics of divisiveness and confrontation, in place of the co-operation and consultation on which we, as the Government of Australia and the Government of New South Wales, are building a better nation for all Australians.

Eight years ago, Neville Wran won a watershed victory which paved the way for Labor's great resurgence throughout Australia and ultimately to the historic victory of the fifth of March 1983.

So that is something every Australian should be grateful for - and I stand here tonight to acknowledge my own debt.

But much more important has been the contribution and co-operation from Neville Wran and his Labor Government of New South Wales in the task of rebuilding Australia over the past year.

And without that co-operation, the continuing work would suffer a tremendous blow.

New South Wales needs a Labor Government.

But all Australia needs a Labor Government in New South Wales.

There must be an end to the spurious campaign of villification, this new McCarthyism, Liberal-style.

And the people alone can now end it.

And they can end it once and for all by returning Neville Wran and the Labor Government on the 24th of March.

I need Neville Wran. New South Wales needs Neville Wran. Australia needs Neville Wran.

Let him get on with the job - the real task of building a better New South Wales and helping our Government build a better Australia.