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PRIME MINISTER

*****CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY EMBARGOED AGAINST DELIVERY AT 8.00PM
SPEECH TO THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE ALP, ADELAIDE, 13 SEPTEMBER 1984

MR PRESIDENT, MR PREMIER, DELEGATES, FELLOW MEMBERS,

I NOTICE, DELEGATES; THAT ONE OF THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR TONIGHT'S COUNCIL IS INFORMATION REGARDING THE CLOSE OF NOMINATION AND PRESELECTION DATES FOR THE THIRTEEN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SEATS FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; AND I NOTE THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY ENDORSED YOUR SENATE TEAM.

NOW DELEGATES, I REGARD THAT AS ANOTHER SPLENDID EXAMPLE OF THE FORESIGHTEDNESS AND READINESS ON BEHALF OF OUR CAUSE WHICH HAS LONG MADE THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH ONE OF LABOR'S STRONGEST IN AUSTRALIA.

AND I KNOW, THAT WHENEVER THE NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION COMES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA WILL MAKE ANOTHER GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO WHAT I AM CONVINCED WILL BE ANOTHER GREAT AND HISTORIC VICTORY FOR OUR LABOR PARTY AND OUR LABOR GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA.

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AND THAT CONTRIBUTION WILL DERIVE ITS STRENGTH FROM THREE MAIN SOURCES:

- THE CALIBRE OF THE MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES;
- SECOND, THE SUPPORT AND LOYALTY AND HARD WORK OF THIS BRANCH AT EVERY LEVEL;
- AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, THE RECOGNITION BY THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, AND WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED, BY A STRONG FEDERAL LABOR GOVERNMENT, A STRONG STATE LABOR GOVERNMENT, WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP FOR RECOVERY, RECONSTRUCTION AND REFORM, NOT ONLY FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA, BUT FOR ALL AUSTRALIA.

I SAID, DELEGATES, THAT THIS WILL BE AN HISTORIC VICTORY FOR OUR PARTY AND OUR GOVERNMENT.

AND I DON'T USE THOSE WORDS AS A BIT OF RHETORIC.

BECAUSE DELEGATES, THESE ELECTIONS, WHENEVER THEY ARE HELD, WILL CERTAINLY SET THE COURSE FOR AUSTRALIA FOR THE REST OF THIS DECADE; AND BECAUSE OF THE CRUCIAL NATURE OF THE NEXT THREE YEARS, AND THE CRITICAL NATURE OF THE DECISIONS OUR GOVERNMENTS AND OUR COMMUNITY WILL HAVE TO MAKE IN THOSE YEARS, THE OUTCOME WILL REALLY SET THE COURSE OF AUSTRALIA RIGHT INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

AND IT WILL BE OUR TASK, AS A PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DURING THE NEXT CAMPAIGN, TO REINFORCE THAT REALISATION - THE REALISATION OF THEIR HISTORIC AND CRITICAL CHOICE - IN THE MINDS AND CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF EVERY AUSTRALIAN.

AND I WANT TO SAY, DELEGATES, THAT IN THAT TASK - THE TASK OF RAISING TO THE FULLEST POSSIBLE AWARENESS AND COMPREHENSION, ON THE PART OF THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA, ABOUT WHAT IS REALLY AT STAKE IN THESE ELECTIONS - I WANT TO TELL YOU DELEGATES, THAT WE HAVE FOUND POWERFUL ALLIES - ALLIES WHO ARE ALREADY ASSISTING OUR CAUSE AND OUR CAMPAIGN BY THEIR EVERY ACTION AND THEIR EVERY UTTERANCE.

I MEAN OF COURSE DELEGATES, THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION - THE PEACOCK-HOWARD-SINCLAIR OPPOSITION.

AND IT WILL PROVE TO BE ONE OF THE GREAT PARADOXES OF AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL HISTORY THAT THIS PATHETIC, DIRECTION-LESS OPPOSITION - THE WORST AND WEAKEST IN LIVING MEMORY - WILL OPERATE BY ITS DEFAULTS AND FAILURES - AS A POSITIVE GOOD FOR AUSTRALIAN AND THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE.

FOR THERE IS NOTHING WHICH COULD BRING HOME SO CLEARLY AND POWERFULLY TO THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE JUST HOW MUCH IS AT STAKE AT THESE ELECTIONS, HOW CLEAR THE CHOICE IS, HOW VITAL THE ISSUES ARE, HOW APPALLING THE ALTERNATIVE IS, THAN THIS OPPOSITION.

AND DAY BY DAY, BY THEIR CONDUCT, THEIR TACTICS AND THEIR POLICY STATEMENTS, THEY ARE MAKING IT CLEARER AND CLEARER.

IF THERE IS ONE THING MORE HELPFUL TO US AND OUR GREAT CAUSE THAN THE TORPOR, AND SILENCE, AND ABSENCE OF POLICY WHICH CHARACTERISED THIS OPPOSITION IN THE FIRST FIFTEEN MONTHS, IT IS THE SQUALOR AND CLAMOUR AND THEIR POLICY STATEMENTS OF THE PAST THREE.

HAS THERE BEEN ANY SPECTACLE SO NAUSEATING AS THE AUSTRALIAN TORY PARTY IN ITS DESPERATE SEARCH FOR AN ELECTION ISSUE - THE UNSPEAKABLE IN PURSUIT OF THE CONTEMPTIBLE.

UNTIL A FEW WEEKS AGO WE MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT THAT OUR CHIEF CAMPAIGN WEAPON WOULD BE THE CONTRAST, AT EVERY POINT, BETWEEN OUR RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT AND THE FRASER-PEACOCK-HOWARD-SINCLAIR LEGACY.

BUT THEIR RECENT CONDUCT - NOT LEAST THEIR DECLARATIONS OF WHAT THEY CALL THEIR POLICY - ADDS A NEW AND SHARPER DIMENSION TO THE STRUGGLE.

NOW THEY ARE NOT JUST SADDLED WITH THE DEAD WEIGHT OF THEIR OWN PAST RECORD - AND WE WILL NEVER LET THEM ESCAPE FROM IT, NEVER LET THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA FORGET IT.

THEY HAVE SADDLED THEMSELVES WITH A WHOLE NEW RANGE OF POLICIES AND ATTITUDES WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY UNDO THE GREAT WORK OF THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS, BUT WOULD FORCE AUSTRALIA BACK INTO THE COURSE OF DIVISION AND DISRUPTION WHICH THE PEOPLE REJECTED SO DECISIVELY IN MARCH 1983, AND WILL ASSUREDLY REJECT AGAIN, EVEN MORE DECISIVELY, AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

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BY THEIR OWN ACTIONS, THEY HAVE ENSURED THAT THE CONTEST, WHEN IT COMES, WILL NOT ONLY BE ABOUT THEIR APPALLING PAST AGAINST OUR PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS, AND OUR INTENTION OF BUILDING ON THOSE ACHIEVEMENTS FOR A BETTER, FAIRER AUSTRALIA. THEY HAVE ENSURED THE CLEAREST POSSIBLE CHOICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA AND FOR THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA.

THE FACT IS DELEGATES, THAT EVERY TIME THEY LURCH IN SEARCH OF A PHONEY ISSUE, EVERY TIME THEY PURPORT TO PRODUCE ANOTHER POLICY, THEY NOT ONLY EXPOSE THEIR UTTER INADEQUACY, BUT HIGHLIGHT THE MAGNITUDE OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE IN OUR FIRST TERM SO FAR, AND THE EVEN GREATER MAGNITUDE OF WHAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE - AND THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE - IN OUR NEXT TERM.

THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA NOW DON'T ONLY HAVE TO JUDGE - AS THEY ASSUREDLY WILL - BETWEEN OUR RECORD AND THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S RECORD,

THEY NOW KNOW THE ALTERNATIVE THAT IS OFFERED FOR THE FUTURE.

THE PEOPLE WON'T JUST BE JUDGING - ALTHOUGH
THEY WILL MAKE THAT JUDGMENT:

- BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS CREATED
A QUARTER OF A MILLION NEW JOBS IN LESS THAN
TWO YEARS, AGAINST PARTIES WHOSE POLICIES IN
GOVERNMENT PRODUCED THE LOSS OF A QUARTER OF
A MILLION JOBS IN LESS THAN ONE YEAR;

- BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS RESTORED
AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC GROWTH TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL
FOR FIFTY YEARS - THE STRONGEST GROWTH OF ANY
OF THE OECD COUNTRIES - AGAINST PARTIES WHO
ACHIEVED THE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR A COUNTRY
LIKE AUSTRALIA - ZERO ECONOMIC GROWTH.

THEY WON'T JUST BE MAKING A JUDGMENT ABOUT
A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS HALVED THE INFLATION RATE;

- WHICH HAS ACHIEVED A SIGNIFICANT FALL IN
INTEREST RATES;

- WHICH HAS REVIVED THE HOUSING INDUSTRY,
ESPECIALLY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AS WE HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO DO IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE BANNON
GOVERNMENT.

THEY WON'T ONLY BE MAKING A JUDGMENT ABOUT
A GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES HAVE BEEN
REDUCED TO THEIR LOWEST LEVEL FOR SIXTEEN YEARS.

THEIR JUDGMENT WON'T BE BASED ONLY ON THE
COMPARISON AND CONTRAST BETWEEN PRESENT AND PAST.

BECAUSE, DELEGATES, THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA
NOW KNOW - THE OPPOSITION HAS TOLD US - THAT IF THEY
HAD THE REMOTEST OPPORTUNITY, THEY WOULD DISMANTLE
ALL THE MACHINERY, REVERSE ALL THE POLICIES AND DESTROY
THE WHOLE BASIS - NOT ONLY THE NEW STRUCTURES
BUT THE CHANGED ATTITUDES - WHICH HAVE PRODUCED
THIS REMARKABLE RECOVERY AND THIS TRANSFORMATION IN
THE PROSPECTS FOR AUSTRALIA.

THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA KNOW IT, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY KNOWS IT, THE UNIONS KNOW IT.

THIS OPPOSITION NOW WANTS TO ABOLISH ALL THE CONSULTATIVE AND PLANNING MECHANISMS WHICH HAVE BROUGHT INDUSTRY AND UNIONS AND GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER IN THE GREAT DRIVE FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.

THEY WANT TO ABOLISH THE AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING COUNCIL.

THEY WANT TO ABOLISH ALL THE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCILS.

THEY WANT TO ABOLISH THE ECONOMIC PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

THEY WANT TO SELL OFF THE COMMONWEALTH BANKING CORPORATION - IGNORING THE INTERESTS OF ITS MORE THAN TEN AND A HALF MILLION ACCOUNT HOLDERS.

THEY WANT TO SELL OFF THE AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

THEY WANT TO GET RID OF THE PRICES SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY.

AND OF COURSE, THEY WOULD PROPOSE TO EXTEND THIS EXERCISE IN MASS VANDALISM TO THE WHOLE RANGE OF SOCIAL REFORMS, LIKE MEDICARE, WHICH, APART FROM THEIR INTRINSIC VALUE AS MEASURES OF JUSTICE AND EQUITY, ARE INTEGRAL TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S BROADER ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES.

AT THE VERY HEART OF THE RECOVERY, AND AT THE VERY HEART OF OUR HOPES FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A SUSTAINED RECOVERY WITHOUT A NEW BURST OF INFLATION, LIES THE PRICES AND INCOMES ACCORD.

YET EVERYTHING THAT UNDERPINS THE ACCORD - THE MECHANISMS WHICH I HAVE JUST MENTIONED AND ABOVE ALL, CENTRALISED WAGE FIXING - ARE SLATED FOR DESTRUCTION AT THE HANDS OF THESE ECONOMIC SABOTEURS - THESE DISCREDITED MEN WHO, HOWEVER MUCH THEY MAY WISH THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE TO FORGET THE PAST, WOULD DOOM THEM TO REPEAT THE PAST, AND ENDURE A REPETITION OF THE PAST, WITH ALL ITS WASTE, INJUSTICE, UNEQUAL HARDSHIP, AND DIVISIVENESS.

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AND I HAVE NO DOUBT, DELEGATES, THAT THE HIGHLY FAVOURABLE RESPONSE TO THE BUDGET GOES BEYOND THE FACT THAT IT IS SIMPLY THE BEST AND FAIREST BUDGET PRODUCED, CERTAINLY IN MORE THAN A DECADE.

THE RESPONSE GOES BEYOND THE FACT THAT THE BUDGET ENCAPSULATES AND CONSOLIDATES THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS.

I AM CONVINCED THAT PART OF THAT RESPONSE LIES IN THE GROWING REALISATION AROUND AUSTRALIA - NOT LEAST IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY - OF THE APPALLING AND DESTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVE, IMPLICIT IN THE POLICIES SO FAR ANNOUNCED BY THE OPPOSITION.

DELEGATES, WHEN YOU SEE OUR SUPPOSED OPPOSITION TROTting OUT THESE DISASTROUS POLICIES ONE BY ONE, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN, AS I'VE HAD OCCASION TO SAY IN PARLIAMENT IN RECENT DAYS, YOU CAN HARDLY BELIEVE YOUR LUCK.

BUT THERE ARE OTHER TIMES WHEN YOU CAN HARDLY BELIEVE YOUR EARS:

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- WHEN AN IAN SINCLAIR TALKS ABOUT ETHICS AND PROPRIETY;
- OR WHEN A HOWARD - THE HOWARD WHO DUMPED ON US A DEFICIT OF \$9.6 BILLION WHICH WAS DELIBERATELY CONCEALED FROM THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE 1983 CAMPAIGN - LECTURES US ABOUT THE DEFICIT;
- OR WHEN A PEACOCK - OR ANY MEMBER OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT - HAS THE GALL TO TALK ABOUT TAX REFORM AND TAX AVOIDANCE.

DELEGATES, LET THERE BE NO DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND THAT TAXATION WILL BE AN ISSUE IN THE COMING ELECTION.

WE ARE DETERMINED THAT IT SHALL BE SO.

AND HERE AGAIN IT WON'T BE JUST A MATTER OF COMPARING OUR RECORD WITH THEIR RECORD IN GOVERNMENT.

WE'LL BE EXPOSING THEIR RECORD IN OPPOSITION.

BECAUSE THEIR PROTECTION OF THE TAX AVOIDANCE INDUSTRY IN OPPOSITION, THROUGH THEIR NUMBERS IN THE SENATE, HAS BEEN EVERY BIT AS BAD AS THEIR RECORD IN GOVERNMENT.

IN RECENT DAYS, WE HAVE HAD IN CANBERRA THE UNBELIEVABLE SPECTACLE OF THIS OPPOSITION WAVING AROUND DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE WORK OF ROYAL COMMISSIONER COSTIGAN AND SPECIAL PROSECUTOR REDLICH.

AND THE SUGGESTION, BREATHTAKING IN ITS ABSURDITY, IN ITS INVERSION OF THE TRUTH AND PERVERSION OF REALITY - WAS THAT WE WERE INDIFFERENT, OR WORSE, TO COMPLETING OR FOLLOWING THROUGH THE WORK OF THOSE INVESTIGATIONS.

NOW WHAT IS THE REALITY?

THE WHOLE THRUST OF THE COSTIGAN REPORTS IS SUMMED UP IN A SINGLE DEVASTATING PARAGRAPH CONTAINED IN MR COSTIGAN'S INTERIM REPORT NO. 3, DATED 18 DECEMBER 1981.

AND COMMISSIONER COSTIGAN SAID THIS:

"THE COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE FEDERATED SHIP PAINTERS AND DOCKERS' UNION HAS LED IT, TO THE SURPRISE OF MANY, TO THE TAX AVOIDANCE INDUSTRY."

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NOW DELEGATES, LET ME EMPHASISE THE NEXT SENTENCE AND REMIND YOU AGAIN OF THE DATE - DECEMBER 1981:

"THIS INDUSTRY HAS DEVELOPED IN AUSTRALIA, PARTICULARLY OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, AT A RATE FAR IN EXCESS OF ANY OTHER INDUSTRY AND HAS BROUGHT WITH IT PROFITS COMPARABLE ONLY TO THE HEADY DAYS OF THE VICTORIAN GOLD RUSH."

LET ME EMPHASISE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE REMARKS, BECAUSE THIS REVELATION IS THE WHOLE FOUNDATION OF THE SUBSEQUENT WORK BY MR COSTIGAN AND HIS STAFF - AND LET ME REMIND YOU DELEGATES, OUR GOVERNMENT MASSIVELY INCREASED THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMISSION.

AS COMMISSIONER COSTIGAN SAYS, THE TAX AVOIDANCE INDUSTRY BECAME THE GREATEST GROWTH INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA IN THE YEARS 1976 TO 1981 - THAT IS, EXCLUSIVELY IN THE YEARS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF WHICH PEACOCK-HOWARD-SINCLAIR WERE SENIOR MEMBERS.

IT WOULD BE WELL FOR THE REPUTATION AND CREDIBILITY OF THIS OPPOSITION, IF THEIR PROTECTION OF THE TAX AVOIDANCE INDUSTRY HAD ENDED WHEN THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT ENDED IN MARCH 1983.

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BUT WORSE WAS TO COME.

BECAUSE DELEGATES, WHATEVER THEY MIGHT ATTEMPT TO SAY ABOUT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PERIOD FROM 1976 TO 1981, THIS OPPOSITION CAN NEVER ESCAPE ONE PARTICLE OF ITS ABSOLUTE RESPONSIBILITY FOR USING ITS NUMBERS IN THE SENATE, IN COLLABORATION WITH SOME OF THE DEMOCRATS, TO THWART AND FRUSTRATE KEY ELEMENTS OF OUR ANTI-TAX AVOIDANCE LEGISLATION.

IN MARCH 1983 WE UNDERTOOK, IN THESE WORDS, TO "WIPE OUT THE TAX EVASION AND AVOIDANCE INDUSTRY IN THIS COUNTRY".

AND WE HAVE HONOURED THAT PLEDGE TO THE LIMIT OF OUR POWER.

ONLY THIS WEEK, PAUL KEATING ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST REAL REVIEW AND REFORM OF PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES TO PREVENT TAX EVASION AND AVOIDANCE SINCE BEFORE WORLD WAR II.

BUT IN THE SENATE, A COMBINATION OF LIBERALS, NATIONALS AND SOME OF THE DEMOCRATS, HAVE FOUR TIMES REJECTED OUR CRUCIAL LEGISLATION AGAINST TAX AVOIDANCE.

THE RESULT IS THAT THE AUSTRALIAN TAXPAYERS -
THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ORDINARY, DECENT,
LAW-ABIDING AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS - HAVE BEEN CHEATED
OF \$500 MILLION.

LET THEM NEVER FORGET THAT.

AND LET THE TAXPAYERS AND THE PENSIONERS OF
AUSTRALIA NEVER FORGET IT; AND NEVER FORGET THAT
THIS COMBINATION OF LIBERALS, NATIONALS AND SOME OF
THE DEMOCRATS, HAVE ALLOWED A HANDFUL OF MALEFACTORS
OF GREAT WEALTH TO MILK THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY
OF AT LEAST \$500 MILLION.

IN THE BUDGET, WE WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE TAX
CUTS OF \$7.60 A WEEK FOR THE AVERAGE TAXPAYER.

BUT THAT LOST \$500 MILLION WOULD HAVE
ALLOWED A TAX CUT IN ONE YEAR OF A FURTHER \$42.

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AND DELEGATES, I DON'T THINK YOU CAN HAVE A CLEARER ILLUSTRATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ELECTION FOR HALF THE SENATE WHICH HAS, BY THE CONSTITUTION, TO TAKE PLACE SOON AND WHICH, FOR ALL THE MOST LOGICAL AND PERSUASIVE REASONS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST, WILL BE HELD CONJOINTLY WITH AN ELECTION FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE MAXIMISE OUR VOTE IN THE SENATE ELECTIONS; AND ENSURE THAT THE VOTE FOR THE SENATE REFLECTS AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE, AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE UNDER OUR SYSTEM, THE VOTE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA, AS REFLECTED IN THE ELECTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

AND THAT IS A SPECIAL TASK - THE TASK OF MAXIMISING THE SENATE VOTE - WHICH WILL DEVOLVE UPON THE ORGANISATION, THE BRANCHES, THE RANK AND FILE OF OUR PARTY.

BECAUSE WE KNOW, WE OF THE LABOR PARTY KNOW, FROM LONG EXPERIENCE, JUST HOW MUCH IS AT STAKE IN THE BEST POSSIBLE SENATE RESULT.

DELEGATES, DO NOT THINK FOR A MOMENT THAT THERE IS ANYTHING COINCIDENTAL OR ACCIDENTAL ABOUT THE NEW TACTICS BEING ADOPTED BY THIS DESPERATE AND DISCREDITED OPPOSITION.

INDEED, THERE IS NOTHING NEW AT ALL ABOUT THESE TACTICS.

WE HAVE SEEN IT ALL BEFORE, WHENEVER OUR GREAT CAUSE HAS WON, BY FAIR, OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC MEANS, THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA AGAINST THE FORCES OF REACTION AND CONSERVATISM.

BUT DELEGATES, IN 1984 A QUITE NEW DESPERATION NOW MOTIVATES THIS OPPOSITION.

FOR THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO UNITE THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA AROUND CERTAIN GREAT GOALS AND COMMON OBJECTIVES IN A WAY THAT HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN ACHIEVED BEFORE IN PEACETIME.

WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BRING KEY SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER, TO WORK TOGETHER, TO ACHIEVE THOSE GOALS.

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PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING TOGETHER THESE SPECIFIC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GOALS, HAS BEEN THE CREATION OF A NEW-FOUND SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION, CONFIDENCE AND SELF-CONFIDENCE IN THE NATION - A NATION NEWLY-CONFIDENT IN ITSELF, CONFIDENT IN ITS DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, CONFIDENT IN ITS LEADERSHIP, NEWLY-CONFIDENT IN ITS FUTURE.

IT IS ON THE BASIS OF THIS CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE, THAT LABOR - LABOR IN THE NATION AND LABOR IN THE STATES - IS BUILDING A BETTER, FAIRER FUTURE FOR AUSTRALIA.

AND OUR POLITICAL ADVERSARIES WELL KNOW THAT IF THEY ARE TO MAKE ANY HEADWAY AT ALL, EITHER IN THE SHORT TERM OR THE LONGER TERM, THEY MUST UNDERMINE THIS NEW SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION, CONCILIATION AND CONFIDENCE, WHICH WE ARE CREATING IN THIS NATION.

THAT IS THE WHOLE POINT AND PURPOSE OF THE POLICIES WHICH THEY ARE NOW PUTTING FORWARD - POLICIES WHICH, AS I HAVE SAID, COULD ONLY RESULT IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WHOLE FABRIC OF NATIONAL RECOVERY, NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

AND THAT IS THE WHOLE POINT AND PURPOSE OF THE TACTICS OF DENIGRATION WHICH THEY HAVE NOW ADOPTED, IN THESE LATTER DAYS OF THEIR DESPERATION.

NOT, AS I SAY, TACTICS WHICH THEY HAVE ADOPTED FOR THE FIRST TIME. BUT WE MUST MAKE SURE IT IS FOR THE LAST TIME.

DELEGATES - BY OUR UNREMITTING EFFORTS BETWEEN NOW AND ELECTION DAY, BY EXPOSING THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE, IN THE EYES, THE MINDS, THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA - WE MUST ENSURE THAT THESE TACTICS AND THEIR PERPETRATORS NEVER AGAIN HAVE A PLACE IN THE GREAT AFFAIRS OF THIS NATION.

IN THAT TASK, I KNOW WITH ABSOLUTE CONVICTION, THAT I CAN RELY ON THE SUPPORT, LOYALTY AND DEDICATION OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH, THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNIONS, THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RANK AND FILE, WITHOUT STINT - BECAUSE YOU KNOW, YOU ALL KNOW, AS I KNOW, THAT UPON OUR SUCCESS IN THIS TASK, DEPENDS ALL THE BEST HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF OUR GREAT CAUSE, AND IN A WAY THAT HAS NEVER BEEN SO TRUE IN THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA, THE CAUSE AND THE HOPES OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATION AND PEOPLE.