



PRIME MINISTER

E. & O.E. - PROOF ONLY

TODAY SHOW - 9 OCTOBER 1984 - (pre-recorded on 8 October)

INTERVIEWER: *Intro to Interview*

The Prime Minister says he has some good news for those of us who are groaning at the thought of yet another election.

Interview

PRIME MINISTER: What I am doing is to try and remove for them forever in the future the possibility of unnecessary elections because I will be saving them an election by having the House of Representatives with the election of a half Senate, which we must hold by April of next year. So I will be saving an election and saving them \$19 million. It will cost \$30 million to have the two together rather than \$49 million to have them separately. But importantly I will be putting a referendum to them with the election which will mean that if the people pass that that in future elections have to be simultaneous and no Prime Minister in the future will be able to have unnecessary elections.

INTERVIEWER: And if that referendum gets through what do you see happening - a three year period - a guaranteed three year period?

PRIME MINISTER. Yes.

INTERVIEWER: No ifs or buts?

PRIME MINISTER: No ifs or buts because we want them to go full term. There are very good reasons for doing it now to avoid an unnecessary extra election.

INTERVIEWER: Why should people give you another three years? What has been done in the past eighteen months to convince anybody of anything?

PRIME MINISTER: In February/March during the election campaign Australians will remember in the beginning of '83 that this country was more divided and divisive, confrontationist, than it had been in living memory. Unemployment was climbing, inflation was high, interest rates were very, very high. I promised to bring Australia together - we have done that.

INTERVIEWER: And what is the promise this time around? Is that going to continue?

PRIME MINISTER: We are going to keep Australians together. We are going to work on the basis of industry and unions and governments working together for the common good of Australia.

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PEACOCK ON TODAY SHOW - 9 OCTOBER 1984

PEACOCK: Fine way of bringing Australians together by having a fight, and actually in 1984 and not in 1986 when it was due. But if there is going to be a contest well let's get into it.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you will win?

PEACOCK: Yes I do. It's going to be hard Peter, I don't disguise that. We're behind in the general polling that's around and to say that it was going to be easy no one would believe, and I don't believe it myself. But I believe there are a considerable number of Australians, very ordinary Australians in the real sense of the word, who are being hurt at the moment:- 46/47¢ in the dollar for persons on average weekly earnings paid in tax; the elderly who have been attacked by the assets test; and for all those who believed that in this country you could save and get ahead and have a nest egg, you are going to be hit by a capital gains tax and death duties.

INTERVIEWER: Don't you think the vast majority of Australians though are happy with the way things have been run for the past eighteen months? Unless you totally ignore the public opinion polls that seems to be the situation.

PEACOCK: I think the vast majority of Australians are happy being Australians but I think they'd be happier with an alternative form of government because they can see the extent to which taxation is impinging not only on their general freedom because they haven't got the money to spend, but they can't plan ahead, and when you add it to the other concerns - their lack of choice of doctor etc in the field of Medicare - you see the sort of issues that will emerge during the election campaign itself and I believe that there will be a strong resurgence back to the Liberal and National Parties.

INTERVIEWER: Alright - a couple of quick questions: do you think that organised crime is going to be an issue in this election?

PEACOCK: Well because there is a difference between ourselves and the government and they are running away and winding up Costigan too early that clearly will come up. But I think if I can use the term - it is like a second level issue. The factors like tax, assets test, lump sum superannuation slug, capital gains, death duties - they'll override organised crime.

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