



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH CHERYL TAYLOR CHANNEL 9 SYDNEY

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

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JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, ... think that the political analysts might make comments about the strategies of various parties.

Do you find it rather amazing that John Valder has come out and actually admitted the strategy of let's sit and watch the Labor Party put our policies, let them fall out of office and then *let the Liberals take over.*

PM: I suppose at last we have found someone in the Liberal Party who is approaching honesty. It is a most devastating indictment of his own party. He says that what has to be done is to slash social services. Here is the leader of the Party, he has spent the last 12 months or more attacking my Government. The small *steps* we took in the assets test, he said what we have done is right. It is not enough, you have got to slash more. He has shown that pensioners, all the people of Australia in the social welfare system would be in grave risk. The pensioners would have their incomes slashed even more. He said in regard to fringe benefits on tax, what we are doing is right. Not enough. But of course, Mr Peacock, Mr Howard, ... the job while we are in government of going around and saying what we are doing is wrong. Let Labor do the hard jobs and if they get back do it even more. Now let Mr Peacock, let Mr Howard stand up and be revealed for what they are. Are they going to repudiate this man who tells the truth about their Party or are they going to go on and try and delude the Australian people even more. This has revealed the Liberal Party, Mr Peacock, the cynical hypocrits, which increasingly the Australian people will come to know they are. They will never be trusted again. They should not have been trusted before.

JOURNALIST: So you obviously take this as a resounding support for your policies, particularly on support for the assets test and the tax ...

PM: Let's read what he says. He said don't fiddle around with this talk of privatisation. He says it is just fiddling at the edges. What you have got to do is slash the social welfare. He said what happened over even the assets test, which if I can be a little candid, you know remarkable for someone in the Liberal Party, he is the President. If I can be a little candid on what he thought was a private program.

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PM cont: But here it is. He said about the assets test, it "was a very small step in the direction" the Liberal Party should take.

JOURNALIST: It looks like it is Valder versus Peacock. Any predictions on where it is going ...

PM: NO it is not just Valder against Peacock. It is Valder against the sham, the hypocrisy and deceit embodied by Mr Peacock. Mr Peacock is an illustration of the tactic of the Liberal Party in this country. They recognise, as indeed Mr Peacock did on the backbench in 1981, they recognised the truth, the necessity for the welfare of this country, for these things to be done that we are doing. They are saying no, in public we will get up and we will tell lies. We will say we are against what the Government is doing in the assets test, against what we are doing with the fringe benefit. And hope that the Labor Party will do them, and the population will be lured against the Labor Party by our of the Liberal Party, hypocrisy and lies. And then when we get back in, not repudiate what the Labor Party has done, but do even more to cut deeply into social welfare. So it is not Valder against Peacock, it is in part. It is Valder against all the sham and hypocrisy of these people. Now what we want to hear from Mr Peacock, is he going to try and sack Mr Valder for telling the truth. WE want to hear from Mr Howard. What is Mr Howard going to do? Because Mr Howard agrees with Mr Valder. It is an interesting scenario which we will all be watching with very, very great interest.

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