



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF PRIME MINISTER ON 2SM - 27 November 1985,
8.20am

E & O E - Proof only

JOURNALIST: The Federal Government have recently started a campaign to help unemployed youth called Priority One and on Sunday, 8 December, 2SM in association with the Australian Rock Company and the Human Rights Commission will present the Priority One Summer Rock Concert at the Domain. And to talk about it, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Bob Hawke. Prime Minister, how are you doing?

PM: Very well thanks Leon.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, the concert I just mentioned will feature the Cockroaches, Gangajang, George Smilovic, Moving Pictures, Pseudo Echo, Dynamic Hypnotics, the Machinations, Australian Crawl - I just wonder would I be likely to find any of those bands in your record collection or would I be more likely to find maybe Vera Lynn's Hits of the Blitz.

PM: Oh, well you wouldn't find Vera Lynn's Hits of the Blitz and I must honestly say you'd more likely to find records of the groups you referred to in my daughter's records. But I'm catholic in my tastes, I enjoy a lot of modern music, but my preference is for classical music.

JOURNALIST: Would you have any idea just how many people in the age group we're talking about are going to be able to get permanent jobs as a result of Priority One.

PM: Well let me put it this way - if we look at the 16 and 17 year olds for a start, we believe that as a result of the combined things that we'll be doing in increasing the incentive to stay in education, the traineeship scheme, plus more job creation - should mean that by the end of this decade we should have eliminated virtually unemployment amongst 16 and 17 year olds. We ought to have created a situation by the end of the decade where all 16 and 17 year olds will be able to be staying in the education system, be in employment or training, or a combination of those things - that's for 16 and 17 year olds. And that as far as the next group of 18/19 year olds, we should also have been substantially able to reduce the level of unemployment in that area. In other words we have

PM cont....: made a significant inroad into youth unemployment since we've been office and the Priority One concepts are directed towards very significantly further reducing that unemployment level by the end of the decade.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, I note that you're very enthusiastic to get people to stay at school longer and I know that you, yourself, some years ago were a damn hardworking academic, hence you're a Rhodes scholar. You'd probably be aware that something like 80,000 students that sat for an English paper recently had a situation where because of markers who were on strike, they didn't get 30% of their paper marked. How would you feel about something like that.

PM: I'd feel very annoyed. You'll appreciate that that is - and I'm not trying to avoid the thrust of your question - but as you appreciate that is a State matter. The question of education is basically a State one although we are involved in a funding sense. And all I can say is in direct answer to your question, if I was one of the kids involved, I'd be bloody annoyed.

JOURNALIST: I've heard a rumour that you and Molly Meldrum may get together to organise a deficit-aid concert to help fix our balance of payments problems. Is that true.

PM: No, but let me say this in regard to Geldorf Internationally and Molly here. I do appreciate very much the way in which they have used their great talents to try and help those in the world who are significantly less fortunate than ourselves. I think they are deserving of great commendation.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, I'm sure that those of all political persuasions would wish you well over the coming festive season along with your family and I trust that your quest for all things reasonable continues successfully in the New Year.

PM: Leon thank you very much and I want to thank you and the station for your preparedness to be involved in what really is Australia's greatest challenge, and that is to ensure that we use the great resources of this country to ensure that for our young people there is a future of hope.

ENDS