



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF DOORSTOP PARLIAMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 1 APRIL 1986
E & O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister when will Cabinet make a decision on the star wars research

PM: When we get a submission on it.

JOURNALIST: What's your view?

PM: I haven't got a view until we get the submission.

JOURNALIST: Do you agree with John Button?

PM: You heard what I said.

JOURNALIST: Should Senator Button have made the comments that he did?

PM: We don't try and impose curfews on people, like that. I think that it was just a very brief observation he made and the matter will be properly considered when it comes before Cabinet. It's been some time, as you know, since we had the letter from Secretary of Defence Weinberger. We're not in any great hurry about this matter and we're certainly not going to be cascaded into a decision because of one observation.

JOURNALIST: What do you think is the possibility of Australian companies becoming involved in star wars research?

PM: I've got no comment to make on the matter before Cabinet's considered it.

JOURNALIST: What's your view of Gerry Hand's comment that it looks like the MX issue all over again?

PM: I've got no comment on Gerry's comment.

JOURNALIST: Will Caucus be consulted before or after the Cabinet decision, Mr Hawke?

PM: The normal processes will be followed. I don't think there's anything to worry about.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister do you agree with the thrust of the statements in the EPAC report?

PM: About the need for expenditure restraint, I think we've been on that particular platform before they were.

JOURNALIST: Sir, are you worried about Mr Howe's comments at the broad left conference.

PM: No not particularly. I haven't had the opportunity of reading the full text of what he had to say. I'd like to have a look at that.

JOURNALIST: Are you worried about your ministers criticising Government policy.....?

PM: Well as Mr Howe is reported as saying, he wasn't attacking the Government, or criticising the Government and so if he says that I guess he means it.

JOURNALIST: Do you believe that?

PM: Well I couldn't imagine he'd say something he didn't believe.

JOURNALIST: It's not because it's April the first then?

PM: No, no. I'm fully conscious of the date Laurie.

JOURNALIST: Should Mr Howe be so outspoken, do you think?

PM: Well as I say I'd like to have a look at his text. I think he's entitled to me reading the full text before I make any observations on the basis of newspaper reports. Not that you people don't always get it 100 per cent accurate.

JOURNALIST: He made the speech last Friday.

PM: Yes, well you may have a different sense of priorities for the use of my time than I have.

JOURNALIST: Do you expect to give Mr Weinberger a final decision in relation to the invitation next week?

PM: I don't know. I wouldn't expect that our timing will be determined by his presence. It will be determined by the time which the ministers involved need to take in considering this matter.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister are you going to revert to the idea of having a weekly press conference?

PM: I'm at your disposal. You know that. It was there. You didn't always want it every week. I don't think we need, as much as we enjoy one another's company, necessarily to meet every week.

JOURNALIST: I think we enjoy yours more than you enjoy ours.

PM: Well you see you might be wrong again. I think you're all lovely. Well most of you.

JOURNALIST: Would it be better for you to have a weekly press conference, rather than for us to doorstep you?

PM: Well it's really up to you. I'm your humble servant, just whichever way you'd like it.

JOURNALIST: Well it takes up a lot of our time if we have to doorstep you. It would be very helpful if you had a weekly press conference.

PM: Does it? It's nice in weather like this though isn't it?

JOURNALIST: Oh not too bad. Do you think perhaps you could revert to that?

PM: Well we'll see.

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