



PRIME MINISTER

E: OE - Proof Only

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER - WAYSIDE CHAPEL
SYDNEY, FRIDAY 16 JANUARY 1987

Good morning Sir, is this your first trip to the Wayside Chapel at the Cross.

PM: Yes it is. I have had the opportunity of getting to know Ted Noffs over a period of time, particularly in regard to his work in the drug education area and there has been financial assistance provided from the Fed Govt and the State govt but Ted believes that more is needed to ensure that the best possible can be done for as many people and he suggested that I should come and see the work being done here and I was more than happy to do so. And I must say Ted I am enormously impressed, favourably by the quality of the work, the imagination and the good sense and the way that it is done - the positive way in which from the start that you try tell the kids about the marvellous unique quality of the body and don't force the message that early stage. Let it arise from their own stimulation which comes from that positive education. And I will be trying to ensure Ted that I see that my colleagues in the State govt have the opportunity of coming and seeing what you are doing as I think in corporation with the States that the Commonwealth should give v. considerable support to this program. I would like to congratulate you and everyone that has been involved in the concept and work and I know it is a v. large unseen number of people behind who have made it possible. But without your inspiration it couldn't have happened. Not only do I want to congratulate you but I thank you on behalf of the govt and the people of Australia.

Q: Does that mean there will be more money going towards

such things as the Life Style centres?

The Life Education centres? A bit of a difference.
PM: Yes I think there should be more financial assistance
You can see I think from your experience that the practicality,
the relevance of it and you can see the way the kids respond and
after all Ted has said, and we have tried to say in our approach
to the drug education issue in this country. It is much more
important that you teach people about the problem and the through
education you stop the demand for drugs. You never in this sort of
society going to be able to fully stop the supply. It is a v.
difficult job and it is much more intelligent and rational use of
resources to cut down the demand to make people understand, the
not merely the stupidity but ultimately the tragedy and the loss
of life that is involved in the use of hard drugs. So it makes
sense to concentrate efforts in this sort of area and I think Ted
and the people around him in the life education centre concept are
demonstrating - alright there's the concept - education. It is
easy to say there's the concept - but they have translated the
concept, it seems to me, into v. v. practical applications which
is getting out to the kids, our young people and if you can do
that over the years then we will gradually eliminate this problem.

Q: You are incorporating the Life education centres into
(inaudible) drug offensive?

PM: Well it has already been done. WE are providing some
support - the NSW govt is but what I have been saying to Ted
in discussions I had with him yesterday, is that it would make
a lot of sense for me to try and persuade my State Premier colleagues
to come and see this - because the way that this is best going to
work is if we can replicate in the other States the co operation
that exists here in this State - between the State govt and
ourselves and Ted's operation through the Life Education centres.
If we can get all the State govts involved - financial assistance
involvement from them - and from ourselves then I think we can
really give hard practical expression to what people want done.
What people want is to have kids educated in the danger of drugs.
And not just through the talk of the Ted Noffs or the politicians
but down there by people who have talked in terms ^{total} of the kids
know and understand.

3

Q: But can you guarantee, PM, more money for these centres.

PM: Yes, I think there will be more financial assistance coming. You leave it to me and the way I handle it, it will be forthcoming.

Q: On another subject PM, can you comment on the News Ltd takeover.

PM: Well I have taken the view from the beginning that this is matter for the market place, the requirements of the trade practices legislation will be taken into account, as will the proposed new legislation of the govt which is historic in terms of ensuring that we are not going to have cross media monopolization in this country.....and once those requirements are properly taken into account (inaudible) appropriate that the market should decide this matter. That seems to be what has happened.

Q: Are you happy with the way H a Court and Mr Murdoch (inaudible) divided up?

PM: Its not a question of happiness. I mean if you are going to say that you have a market operation then thats what has come out of the market. I think that perhaps it should be recognised by both of them - that (inaudible) negotiations have been conducted at an earlier stage then the price might have been better.

Q: PM on another subject (this question is totally inaudible)...

PM: You see where I am now. I guess you can regard it as something important that I am doing now. And I have made 2 of my senior officers available to meet him and if the gentleman in question is making a noise and saying it is not sufficient - he should see my senior officers including my senior international affairs advisor, then I would suggest that if thats what he's about he has more interest in publicity for himself than anything he purports to be concerned with.

ends