



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF COMMENTS, PARLIAMENT HOUSE
FRIDAY 27 MARCH 1987

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: John Howard says you'd be the biggest phoney ever if you call an early election.

PM: John Howard talking about people being phonies. Honest John! Really, what we're seeing is the disintegration not only of the Liberal Party, but the disintegration of the person of John Howard. He is totally lacking in any principle. This exercise on the legislation, the equal opportunity legislation, would have to go down as the greatest piece of hypocrisy and deception. Everyone knows, every single person in this Parliament House knows that the reason John Howard changed the position of the Opposition from support for the legislation to opposition was to kowtow to the National Party. This is the man who just days before was saying what is fundamentally important to me is the integrity, the principle of the Liberal Party, that we are not dictated to by anyone else. And what has he done? He's allowed his position of principle on the legislation to be changed, to be dictated to by his concerns about the reaction of the National Party. Any comments by Mr Howard about me are simply an attempt to divert attention from the fact that we've witnessed in this last day possibly the greatest act of political hypocrisy and dishonesty by any political leader in the history of this country.

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