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69

PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF ~~ROOFTOP, KARRIAGE SHOPPING CENTRE~~
26 JANUARY 1989

B & O E PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: Do you think ~~WA Inc~~ is an ~~embarrassment~~
for the Federal Government as well as the ~~West Australian~~
~~Government~~?

PM: No. It's no embarrassment for the Federal Government at all.

JOURNALIST: Does the result of the ~~West Australian~~
~~election~~ ~~put the date of the West Australian election?~~

PM: No. The date for the West Australian election has already been fixed.

JOURNALIST: But does the result of the West Australian election rather -

PM: Effect what we'll do federally? Is that the question?

JOURNALIST: Yes.

PM: No.

JOURNALIST: Not at all?

PM: No is no.

JOURNALIST: Are you ~~campaigning~~ simply on behalf of Mr Dowding here or making some attempt to get things ready for the federal trial as well?

PM: No. It's a State election campaign.

JOURNALIST: Do you think WA Inc is the most important issue here? You've spoken to a few voters today.

PM: No of course not.

JOURNALIST: What have people like the Shopping Centre people been speaking to you about?

PM: No-one's mentioned it to me.

JOURNALIST: This is however one of the most marginal seats in the electorate. Was that deliberately chosen?

PM: No. When I arrive in a State, whether it's Western Australia or any State, I put myself in the hands of the State Secretary and the campaign committee. They asked me to come here. So like the good loyal servant I come and do what I'm asked to do.

JOURNALIST: And what were the people at the ~~Karrinyup Shopping Centre~~ this evening concerned with? What were they talking to you about?

PM: They seemed very happy. I mean they were all saying that Mr Dowding's going to get back, and of course he deserves to. You mentioned WA Inc. Now it would obviously be silly to say that it's not an issue. It is to some extent. But the people of Western Australia are sensible. They know that under this Government, in co-operation with mine, you've had in the areas that matter magnificent achievements. The employment performance of this Government is virtually the best in Australia, it's next to Victoria and above the Australian average. They've created more jobs and lesser unemployment levels in terms of State and Council charges, very much less than the Australian average. He's kept those charges down. In the field of education and health ~~the performance of the Dowding Government~~ is magnificent. Now these are the sorts of things that determine the welfare of the people in electorates like this. Those are the things that'll make their minds up. They've got the alternative of Mr Dowding who is an obvious leader with the full support of his team and his Party against a squabbling, policyless, negative Opposition. There's only one choice.

JOURNALIST: Can you give voters here any assurance that ~~interest rates~~, - hard-pressed home owners, that interest rates are going to go down this year?

PM: They'll go down this year.

ends