



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF DOORSTOP, CYPRUS COMMUNITY CLUB OF NSW, SYDNEY
12 MARCH 1989

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, when do you hope to have these immigration policies up and running?

PM: Which immigration policies?

JOURNALIST: These new ones that you mentioned today, these multicultural -

PM: I didn't mention any new immigration policy. What I said was there was a National Agenda for Multicultural Policies and we've established the Committee which has brought in the preliminary report. That's now being further analysed and we'll give further consideration to that program during this year with the full involvement of the representatives of the various ethnic communities in the country.

JOURNALIST: In Canberra today Dr Hewson says that the Opposition when in government will introduce a consumption tax. What's your reaction to that?

PM: There's two things that are interesting, three things are interesting about Dr Hewson's interview this morning. Firstly, the promise yet again that they're going to detail, give details of the cuts in expenditure. As soon as we've brought down our April statement he unequivocally committed the Opposition to bringing down details of their cuts. Now we've all been longing and waiting to hear what it is they're going to cut. Is it education, roads, defence? The obligation is on them now to tell the Australian community where those cuts are going to come. That's the first interesting point. The second you raised that he's obviously made it clear to the Australian people that a consumption tax is on the agenda as far as the Liberals are concerned. The third is obviously the gulf that exists between various factions in the Opposition. He's saying there'll be the cuts but there are other noises that are being made, we won't necessarily tell you at all what we're going to do. We'll let you go up to an election without any details of what we stand for as Opposition. The final comment therefore to make about all those things when you consider the points I've made is what Dr Hewson is talking about is fairy land stuff, what they would do in government.

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They haven't got the guts, the competence, the wit, the intelligence to get a policy together and they've had six years. They're still as far away as ever and that's why he's talking totally hypothetically, totally fairy land. They will not be getting into government.

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