



759/17/  
20

## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF NEWS CONFERENCE, QUEENS COLLEGE, PARKVILLE, 29  
SEPTEMBER 1989

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, have you in fact eliminated child poverty in the terms in which you said you would in the 1987 promise?

PM: As I said, Bishop Hollingsworth and others recognise that because they are not playing games like the Opposition. We said we would do what was within our power. That is to eliminate the financial need for child poverty. No government can determine what happens in an individual family as to whether a child runs away from home. But we said, in consultation with the welfare industry, that we would set targets of welfare payments which would be percentages of pensions. Now that was agreed with the welfare industry that if we met those percentages, those targets, that would meet the promise of eliminating the financial need for poverty. We met those targets six months ahead of schedule.

JOURNALIST: I think from memory though you said that by 1990 no child would be living in poverty.

PM: Well see you obviously want to play the Opposition game. I'm saying that when you read the full statement, as it was there with the election policy speech, it said that we would provide a situation where there would be no financial need for poverty. Do you believe that any government - or do you want a society which the government is going to go into every home to determine whether the domestic dispute and the kid leaves home and goes out in the street? Obviously no government anywhere in the world can create a situation where it determines what happens in each domestic household. What you can do and what we made the promise to do, was to create a massive increase in financial outlays to families, the low income families, which has now gone to more than half a million low income families in this country, there is the money. There is no financial need for a child to live in poverty. That promise is delivered, that promise is what we said we'd do and it has been acknowledged by the welfare ...

JOURNALIST: The pilots did turn up at the Commission this morning. Is that a hopeful sign?

PM: Well I'm glad they did. I respect what the President of the Commission said. He didn't want any comment about what's happening in there and I hope that those who've said that they were outside the system, that the system wasn't for them and the guidelines wasn't for them, I hope they realise that they need to operate within the system. But I've got no comments on what -

JOURNALIST: We've had some later information on that. The Industrial Relations Commission has adjourned this morning, the AFAP has refused to submit to arbitration.

PM: Then all I can say is that you have a clear situation of a continuing determination by this small group of people to put themselves beyond the system. The airlines and the Government and increasingly the community will act in a way which is necessary; that is that the airline operations will be restored without those people.

JOURNALIST: Is it ... deregister the Federation?

PM: Oh well that's a matter that can be handled through the processes of the Commission if people want to initiate that. But that's not you know the intrinsically important part of what's necessary to deal with this situation. That is simply that the airlines must and will recruit people on the basis of individual contracts and then the airline system will be restored because it is quite clear that the Government and the community is not going to tolerate a situation where a small group of people can say they are above and beyond everyone else and can destroy the economy. That's not going to happen. The airline system will be restored.

JOURNALIST: Melbourne has lost the Grand Prix. ... Olympic Games ...

PM: (inaudible)

ends