



## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF DOORSTOP, ZIONIST FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA  
ACT HEADQUARTERS, FORREST, 21 NOVEMBER 1989

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, Mr Kroger seems to be backing off a bit today. Are you aware of any senior Labor figures perhaps suggesting Mr Elliott would do better off staying in business rather than politics?

PM: If I knew of it I'd move for their expulsion from the Party. I mean there's no-one who would've been looking forward more eagerly to Mr Elliott coming into the Parliament than myself and my colleagues because he would've added to an already disputatious, hatred ridden, gaggle of people who make up the Opposition. It would've been another delightful dimension to it. So far from not wanting him to come in, I would really like to see him there and if any by-election could be arranged in the near future, you know I would urgently suggest that some of these rather ineffective Liberals should stand aside and let him come in. We'd love to see him there. But it is rather pathetic really, these attempts to divert attention from the issue and that issue is the policies of the Liberal Party with which Mr Elliott is associated and of which he would be a very significant beneficiary. All I can say is that it does raise some interesting questions for Mr Elliott when he comes back because obviously he will now be required to substantiate the allegations that Mr Kroger has made. I mean someone's not telling the truth there, either Mr Elliott or Mr Kroger or a combination of both of them.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, does it also suggest that perhaps the attack against Elliott's hitting its mark?

PM: Well it's not so much of an attack against Elliott. As I made it quite clear in my observation in Tasmania on the weekend, I didn't choose Mr Elliott as leader of the Liberal Party. I didn't choose to have him as the person who himself has said publicly that he has been involved in the formulation of Liberal Party economic policy. What I do say and what I am responsible for is to point out that that policy with which he has been associated is one which is a remedy for social and economic disaster for this country.

(PM cont) That attack on that issue will continue unabated and remorselessly because it is a policy which seeks to take from 1% of the population - take from 99% of the population - and transfer to 1%. It involves the most massive redistribution of wealth from the poor, the low and the middle income to the very wealthy, nothing like it's ever been seen before in this country. Mr Elliott is associated with that. The attack will be not upon Mr Elliott as such, but upon those policies. Unfortunately for him and for the Liberal Party, he in a sense typifies the gross social inequity and the economic lunacy of those policies.

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