



## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH HOWARD SATTLER, RADIO 6PR,  
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E & OE - PROOF ONLY

SATTLER: The Prime Minister has arrived, he's on the campaign trail, he's in Western Australia. Welcome to the studio Prime Minister.

PM: Thanks very much Howard. Good to be with you again.

SATTLER: The pilots, they were there again today.

PM: ... they are everywhere.

SATTLER: Are you getting used to them? Do you know them by name now?

PM: No, no no. I don't know them by name. Just recognise a few faces here and there.

SATTLER: Are they having any affect at all on your campaign? Not on you personally but on the perception -

PM: All I can say is that wherever I go, into the places which they are picketing, people just express a repudiation of both what they tried to do to Australia with their very very greedy claim in which they were prepared to destroy the system and of their tactics. That's the reaction I get everywhere I go. So they are not the important issue.

SATTLER: The Trades and Labour Council president and also head of the Electrical Trade Union, John Gandini, was on the program earlier today and he said the arrest of a pilot in Perth yesterday would do nothing for Labor's cause in this election. That's the sort of thing you didn't want to happen. How would you react to that?

PM: It's got nothing to do with us. The police -

SATTLER: I know it's nothing to do -

PM: - the police have to deal with the law and order situation. If they found it necessary that's their decision. It's got nothing to do with us. He wasn't arrested for long. I believe he was out their amongst the demonstrators later on in the day.

SATTLER: He is there again today is he?

PM: He was there yesterday.

SATTLER: Was he?

PM: Same day.

SATTLER: Well what about a wider issue and the issue of how much Australia is in debt at the moment. Yesterday a figure came out and even though Paul Keating and I think to a lesser degree yourself have commented on it and said perhaps it's not the end of the section for Australia, the timing wasn't too good was it?

PM: Yes, but we can't, and of course wouldn't want to, fix these things, say to the Statistician well don't bring out your figures. I mean when I called the election Howard I knew that there would be a January figure coming out. And there it is. But the important thing about it is that in seasonal terms it confirms what we know and that is that the imports are slowing down. If you look at the three months to January compared with the previous three months, a definite slowing down. And very importantly Howard the thing that excited me I think most about the figures was that if you take the last three months and compare them with the same three months of the 12 months earlier, there's been about a 50% increase in manufactured exports. That coincides with a very important report we got earlier this week from the Bureau of Industry Economics which talks in very glowing terms about the restructuring of the Australian economy and the way in which we are now exporting much more manufactured goods. It's reflecting the very very substantial increase in investment that's taken place in the manufacturing industry. So in saying all those things Howard I'm not trying to say look Australia hasn't got any problem about it. Of course, and our policies are directed towards it, but the underlying elements of the restructuring of the economy are such as to give us cause for optimism into the medium future.

SATTLER: Yes but what about things like the wool exports going down. They went down -

PM: Yes but that's really like something in the bank. I mean you have something like half a billion dollars of wool there that's waiting to go. The indications are now that the market's picking up. That will go into the figures in the near future.

SATTLER: There are people continuing to talk recession, mainly your opponents, but what about someone like Professor Geoffrey Blainey. I know he's no mate of yours, no friend of the Government. At the debt conference last night he didn't paint a terribly ...

PM: You're right. I'm not going to get into a slanging match with Geoffrey.

SATTLER: By the way, he didn't do that this morning to you too. He conceded that you were doing a reasonable job.

PM: Look, the fundamental thing about this country for which we've got to be eternally grateful, it is a democracy. Geoffrey has his right to express his views and there's some things that he feels that, y'know, I profoundly disagree with, ... when it comes to things in the immigration area. He's got his right to have his views just as the pilots have their right to demonstrate. But in regard to the fundamentals that I repeat Howard, you've got to ask yourself is Australia now, seven years on, better placed to deal with the challenges of a competitive world than it was before? The answer is an unequivocal yes. I mean the Bureau of Industry Economics is not a Labor Party appendage. It's an independent bureau in the bureaucracy. It has come out, in it's report this week, and made it quite clear that there's been this massive increase in investment in manufacturing industry both in plant and equipment and in buildings, massive increase in employment. Before when we came in, the manufacturing industry was dying. I mean the greatest example of course Howard is the steel industry. In 1983 BHP was going to close the steel industry. But we said you can't do that and we've restructured the steel industry. It's now a significant exporter of steel right round the world. Our shipbuilding industry was dead. It now exports the best part of three quarters of a billion dollars around the world. Now these things just don't transform an economy overnight. But they are there, they are happening and we are confident that with the restraint and co-operation that the workforce has exercised under us, and will continue to do, we can tackle these problems.

SATTLER: Would you agree with Professor Blainey we've all got to work a lot harder to get ourselves out of trouble?

PM: Well always people should work as hard as they possibly can. But let me make this point about Australian workers. I say this to all your listeners because most of them are either themselves workers or the husbands and wives are workers. What has made me proud is when I talk to industrial leaders for instance from Japan, the United States and Europe, who have enterprises in this country, they say to me quite unequivocally that Australian workers, given good management, are at least the equal of any workers in the world. I deeply believe that. So what is required is certainly we all need to work as hard as we possibly can, but we've got to co-operate, we've got to work together, we've got improve work practices and management practices. That's what's happening. Just let me give you an example from steel which sticks in my mind. I was talking with the boss of BHP steel production just a few weeks ago and he

congratulated us on the change in the environment, the industrial environment that's occurred since we've been in and the change in his industry. He said what we used to do - these were his words to me Howard, his exact words - he said our attitude used to be that we expected our workers to leave their brains at the gate. He said now we realise that's wrong. He said what we're doing is we're sitting down and we're talking with them, we're restructuring our practices and the way we produce things. And he said our productivity is going up in leaps and bounds. So it's not just a question of working hard. That's important but it's a question of working together effectively.

SATTLER: Prime Minister, there's tremendous pressure on you and I guess all your senior ministers not to make mistakes during the campaign because you've got this whole gaggle of people around you and they latch onto just about every word you or anybody else, your opponents, say.

PM: That's their job.

SATTLER: Were you embarrassed by Senator Button's apparent mistake on overseas export programs and the funding for them a couple of days ago?

PM: Yes of course. It would be dishonest to say I wasn't embarrassed. But could I make this point, that that was a misunderstanding on John's part in a matter of a few million dollars. He agreed in answer to a question that there was going to be a net reduction in the combined plans of a continuation of an old plan and a new plan that we're bringing in. He agreed in answer to a question that there would be a combined reduction in outlays. In fact there's not. Over the three years there'll be about \$13-16 million. I say \$13-16 not with uncertainty but it's whether you count a \$3 million program as a continuation or a new one. Now that was the order of difference. But there's no embarrassment about that compared to what the embarrassment ought to be of our opponents. They are going around making promises of outlays over \$6 billion, over \$6 billion of unfunded, unaccounted for promises. They say we're going to reduce expenditure but someone ought to tell Mr Peacock if he talks about cutting you can't then go and spend what you save. He has got to account for over \$6 billion. We will be hammering through this campaign and so the media, I believe, will be, certainly ought to be, what about your \$6 billion? Where's the money coming from. The important point is not just a point-scoring exercise but it goes right to the heart of this question of interest rates. Because the two things which will determine, two things will determine whether interest rates come down. One, whether you've got control over wages. We have - seven percent, and we've always been right in our wages predictions. Seven percent. Under Mr Peacock there'll be a wages explosion. And what happens to your budget?

We have for the first time in the history of this Government run our business, that's the Australian Government. We've run it in profit against the great deficit of the Liberals. I've used that surplus to pay off the Commonwealth Government's debt. We don't owe any debt overseas. We are net creditors. But now if he destroys that surplus with his more than \$6 billion blowout and a combination of wages explosion and deficit blowout interest rates must go up. You ask me about Button. Sure I was embarrassed by those minimal amount of dollars that John had not quite got right in his mind. But it is as nothing compared to these things that I'm talking about.

SATTLER: Does it matter to the Government if Alan Bond goes broke? Because he's a man who's got a huge overseas debt.

PM: It's a good question Howard. I want to be as fair and as dispassionate about that as I can. I don't think that Australia on balance is helped if a large entrepreneur like Alan Bond, who has a profile not only in Australia but around the world, if he goes bust. It probably, given Australia's size, it does a bit more than if a big boy in America goes bust because there are so many more of them. So I would be quite silly and dishonest if I would try and say to you of course it doesn't matter, there's not impact. It won't be good for Australia's image marginally if he were to go bust. And I'm not saying he will. I mean that's for the courts and for Mr Bond and creditors and so on to work out.

SATTLER: It's not going to help him with the Attorneys-General sitting down today to decide whether there's going to be some sort of major investigation with the Bond companies is it?

PM: No, but you must appreciate, and I know you don't expect me to comment upon those matters either in the courts or which may involve the courts, it's not appropriate. I'm trying to go to the substance of your question. The internationally, if Mr Bond were to, and we're talking hypothetically, to go bust, then it would have a marginal disadvantage. But if you come to within Australia, again hypothetically if Alan Bond were to go bust, the actual enterprises would go on. I mean the breweries would go on producing.

SATTLER: Maybe John Elliott would get them.

PM: Yes but they'd still be, in employment terms and activity terms, they'd go on. The same with the media. So in terms of the internal economy of Australia it wouldn't make any difference. I think in the international markets whatever they may think about these things they would've taken into account in any rate by now.

**CALLER:** Good morning Mr Hawke. I want to ask how you can claim that you are leading a united team when you and the Treasurer can't agree on lowering the top tax rate to the company tax rate and on an issue as an important as the environment. We have now got Senator Walsh at a completely different tack to Senator Richardson and a prominent Labor backbencher Mr Campbell saying on air only a few days ago that Senator Richardson is a disaster and ought to be sacked and I wonder why your Party has to concentrate its fire on supposed Opposition disunity if you really had been doing a good job for Australia over the last 7 years.

**PM:** Well Jeremy let's go straight to the issues raised and then the Opposition as I am very glad you raised them. On the top tax rate there is no difference between Mr Keating and myself and however you may Jeremy, try to beat that up you won't succeed and you will appreciate that the media has not pursued this issue. I simply said in answer to a question would there be a possibility of a reduction in the top rate. My answer was very specific in response to what I said. If in the next term it appeared appropriate or responsible then that would be done but it was not on the agenda and that is precisely the position of the Treasurer. There is no difference there now. In regard to the environment and you talk about Mr Campbell, well I don't think Mr Campbell will you know take offence. If I make the observation because I made the observation to him directly in the caucus where he has put himself at odds with every other single member of the caucus on issues, I pointed out to Graeme that he doesn't really speak for the Party and he accepts that. He is an interesting character Graeme Campbell, he is an individual and he has got lots of very very good points about him.

**SATTLER:** Can he survive, that's what I want to know?

**PM:** Well he will win his seat of Kalgoorlie.

**SATTLER:** I mean within the Party ....

**PM:** Yes I think he will. I mean he's a very direct sort of bloke but there is no doubt that his commitments are basically to the Labor Party. But very interesting Jeremy that in this context you raised the question of unity in the Opposition well here of course you have the position where there is an absolute lack of not only coordination but there is the deepest possible hatred between leading figures. Could I just remind you Jeremy, these are not my words I am just reading from the Sydney Morning Herald of the 31 October last, and this is under the heading, Howard. See it's pretty definite isn't it.

**SATTLER:** "No trust between us two says Howard".

**PM:** "No trust between us two says Howard".

**SATTLER:** And that's John Howard, not me.

PM: John Howard. And what he says, he said he admitted there could be no trust between himself and the man who replaced him, Mr Peacock. So there you have that absolutely foundational hatred and distrust between these two people, you will never have any cohesiveness no capacity for coordinated action within the Liberal Party while those two are there. And of course it was reflected yesterday Howard if I may say so because you have Mr Peacock coming out and saying yes interest rates will still come down, Mr Howard just completely repudiating Mr Peacock. He said that the prospect of any significant fall in interest rates in the immediate future were zilch, a complete and absolute repudiation by Mr Howard yesterday of his leader and it's no accident because they hate one another and Mr Howard, to his credit has said no trust between us.

SATTLER: Who is right, on the issue of interest rates?

PM: Howard is right in respect of the policies of his party because under the policies of Liberal Party there would be absolutely no chance of a reduction in interest rates because if you have an explosion of wages and you have a \$6 billion blow out in prospect with your deficit because you haven't ..... promises, interest rates can't come down. We believe as I said this morning in the markets that the conditions are still there for a reduction in rates.

CALLER: Mr Prime Minister sir, do you have a pad and pen in front of you?

PM: Well I have got a pen mate.

CALLER: Now I want you to take note please sir.

SATTLER: How long is this going to go for Ted?

CALLER: I just want to make a few comments.

SATTLER: Ted, there is a whole heap of people waiting to talk with the PM, you will have to make it short.

CALLER: Yes. You are not to increase the petrol tax.

SATTLER: You are not to increase the petrol tax, is that what you are telling him?

CALLER: Yes.

SATTLER: Ok, are you getting your orders there.

CALLER: The petrol tax, for the bicentenary was increased for 1.5 cents now that has not been removed, now I know you are going to say that you have spent on a lot of money on roads, yes sure you have that's because the petrol tax has been increased but it has not kept up with inflation.

SATTLER: Ok what's your question?

CALLER: Now the auto association have stated that ok, I am not asking a question I am just making a statement.

SATTLER: Alright we know that, alright let's get the PM to talk about ....

PM: Let me, your on the question of roads and and funding. Let me give you the facts Ted as distinct from the absolute distortions and misrepresentations that have been undertaken by many people now. Let me give you the facts Ted and have you got a pen and a pad, if you have just take these figures down. In the 7 years under the previous government they spent \$4,135.5 million, got that Ted. I have spent Ted, \$8,752.6 million now there has been inflation in that period so apply the Bureau of Transport economics road construction cost index and that gives us in same dollar terms what Mr Fraser spent \$9,005.6 million, I have spent \$10,649.9. Now Ted have you got those figures down, that shows that in real terms I have spent 18.3% more on roads than they did and that in an annual average terms in real terms meant, it means I have spent \$235 million more and if you want to look at the take the government gets from oil you get it in two ways. You get it at the oil rig, the oil levy and you get it at the petrol pump in the excise and in my last year I have spent as a proportion of my take on roads, I have spent 19.42% against in their last year 19.06%. So I have devoted more of the revenue from oil to roads than they did and I have spent 18.3% more in real terms on roads, those are the facts Ted.

CALLER: Mr Hawke, a few of my friends and I are a bit worried about foreign investment control and what we would like to know is just what the difference between Labor and Liberal policy on foreign investment control.

PM: Very good question Anthony. We have a body called the Foreign Investment Review Board and the task of that FIRB is to look at significant overseas investment proposals and to advise the government as to whether those proposals for investment in Australia are consistent with the national interest, and we have used that FIRB it has been useful as a source of advice and guidance to the government as to whether proposals are in the Australian national interest and our position is that we will continue along that path. We believe that some and quite an amount of foreign investment in Australia is for the benefit of this and future generations. A lot of it represents the bringing into Australia Anthony of know how and technology, expertise which is going to improve the structure of the Australian economy. Against our position Mr Peacock's policy is to abolish the FIRB and I think you have there got it in a nutshell.

SATTLER: .... in the studio and smack bang in the middle of an election campaign and of course Monday is a big day, celebrates 7 years don't you on Monday, is that right?

PM: Yes that's the election anniversary. We have a more important one on Saturday, Hazel and I celebrate in Alice Springs, that's tomorrow our 34th wedding anniversary.



SATTLER: I am glad you got that right.

PM: I was right, 34. Married here in Perth, Trinity Church, St Georges Terrace on March 3 1956.

SATTLER: Have you got the present?

PM: Beg your pardon.

SATTLER: Have you got the present?

PM: It's being organised mate.

SATTLER: Is it?

PM: Yes.

SATTLER: Today.

PM: Yes, it's being organised.

SATTLER: Alright well have a good day tomorrow.

PM: Thanks very much.

SATTLER: Double celebration, I think a man called Mr Cassidy has got a birthday tomorrow too, haen't he. Some bloke who  
....

PM: Yes he has, 40th.

SATTLER: He's not, only 40?

PM: What do you reckon he looks mate?

SATTLER: At the risk of being sued, I won't say. Alright celebrations all round and I suppose you hope that all that pales into insignificance besides March 24.

CALLER: I just wanted to say, I wanted to congratulate you on the way you handled the phone call from the listener you had in Brisbane regarding the referendum on Asian immigration.

PM: Thank you.

PM: (cont'd) seen it and I found it very disturbing because as I said there is two parts to this question. There is a moral thing I mean I just find it morally repugnant that anyone can say that you can distinguish between people on the basis of their colour, their skin and the shape of their head or their eyes and so on is morally repugnant but the very important thing Howard and you know I don't think this can be over emphasised is for the future of our kids that we have to understand that the Asian Pacific region is the fastest growing part of the world, the most dynamic. We do more of our trade there individually than with any other sector and that will increase in the future and if Australia is going to be able to grow and be part of that massive growth in the region to contribute to it and benefit from it, then the worst thing that we can possibly do for our kids and their future is to give those people an indication that we regard them as second or third class human beings because they will simply say, rightly as you or I would if we were there, if we were there we would say, you want to trade with us, you want to regard us as first class trading people, but we are second or third class people when it comes to immigration, forget it. That's what they would say.

SATTLER: That statement you have just made probably would have usually incited a call from members of the Australian Nationalist Movement here in Perth, this is their headquarters but most of them are in jail at the moment so I am afraid they probably won't be able to call you.

CALLER: Mr Hawke in regards foreign aid. At the present time we are giving away 13/14 patrol boats built here in WA to New Guinea and other parts of the ....

PM: South Pacific, yes South Pacific.

CALLER: In the meantime we can't even patrol our own coast of WA.

PM: Well Peter I don't really know what the point you are making is but let me say this to you Peter that we regard ourselves as having a responsibility to assist the countries of the South Pacific and that really Peter ranges from Papua New Guinea and then it goes right across to Western Samoa and countries, Fiji and there are 13 of them now. We take the view and it's I think basically there is a bipartisan position here Peter that Australia as the largest nation in this region has a responsibility to be of assistance to these countries. This is not just a question of do goodism of a warm inner glow, if you want to put it in starker terms than that in terms of your security it also makes sense that we have good relations with the countries of this region. Now what you have got to appreciate Peter is that these countries have very very limited economies and for all of them fishing in particular is a significant and for some of them almost the only part of their economic development they have got and they have to have some capacity to patrol their fishing grounds, they are subject to depredation by the fishing vessels

PM: (Cont'd) of other countries and it makes imminent good sense that we should assist them to be able to look after that economic capacity that they have got. And I am not aware Peter that there is really any political difference with our opponents on this. I would think that the Opposition will in fact endorse our program, it's something which is intrinsically sensible for the countries concerned but also it makes a hell of a lot of good sense from Australia's security point of view.

CALLER: I have just got a question of Mr Hawke. I would like to know why you have not been completely honest with the people of Australia and telling them why the pilots situation degenerated into what it is now.

PM: You are entitled to accuse me of course of not being honest about it. I have been absolutely honest Howard if I could just very very quickly, not only for Neil but for your listeners recapitulate on the facts. It is now 12 months ago that the pilots made their decision Neil not me, the pilots made a decision that actually issued a publication and in it they said that they were going to take on their employers, the government, the trade union movement and the Industrial Relations Commission. They said the guidelines that applied to everyone else were not for them. They had in fact received the benefits of wage restraint because in response to the wage restraint of workers generally we have given tax cuts, superannuation benefits, so the pilots got the benefits of those. But when it came to their wage claim they said we are not going to abide by the Commission, by the guidelines we are not going to have a bar of that, we are going to take prolonged industrial action. Their words for it, they advised their members to prepare for what they euphemistically called a NIP, which was a non income period. It was their directions to their members, they said go and get another job, start a lawn mowing business, be prepared for a long non income period.

SATTLER: It's become a bite now.

PM: Well, but bit themselves mate. They were telling their people this was going to be a long fight to bust the employers, the government and the industrial relations system, the trade union movement they were going to break outside the guidelines for what they said they were going to get a 30% increase on top of their average \$80,000 a year. That 30% increase, \$24,000 a year increase represented more than what a very very large number of people were earning in a year. Now Neil what I said to them, don't do that. Stay within the system do what everyone else has done, where you have got the benefits from in these other areas like superannuation. When they wouldn't do it I said well I am not going to stand idly by and see the Australian economy smashed because if we let the pilots get their 30% as Mr Peacock would have, if we had let them get their 30% then the whole system was smashed, all the unions with the power to do it would go out and after 30% and the economy would have been

PM: (cont'd) smashed as it was in 1981/82 when the same thing happened. Now those are the facts. In the course of that the pilots resigned, they weren't sacked they resigned and in that situation when they resigned in pursuit of that 30% wage claim then the airlines went about the process of recruiting other people. Those are the facts, not opinions.

CALLER: Mr Hawke I would like to say that I think you are the best government Australia has ever had despite that I want to make a criticism.

PM: I guess I have got to settle for that Greg ok.

CALLER: Well I don't think, the Opposition is even worse in this regard. The thing that really concerns me is this American thinking in Australia at the moment, deregulation is a great thing and the question I would like you to look at after you win the election. If you look at all the economies in the world that are doing very well, the Asian tigers, India with a growth rate of about 8%, European countries like Holland, West Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, these economies are all highly regulated and the economies that have deregulated over the last 15 years are the economies that are going very badly and I think the reason that, I think the government took a lot of courageous decisions but I think the nature of the market forces of greed and everything, the business community have let the government down anyway and Australia.

PM: To answer that question or those observations in the detail that they deserve would obviously take longer than we have got, could I just Howard try and make a couple of points quickly which I think are relevant. I think you have got to understand that while we have deregulated in many areas to allow the forces of competition to operate and I think they, the best test perhaps of this maybe seen Greg, in that we have had a rate of economic growth now twice as fast as it was under our predecessors and a rate of employment growth five times faster than under our predecessors. Now paradoxically that has got something to do with deregulation but I would also have to concede it's got something to do with regulation because we have had a wages policy which in a sense has been regulated, we have had the trade union movement exercising restraint in return for improvements in education, tax cuts and so on so that has been a mixture of regulation and deregulation but that leads to me to one point. You talk about greed, one of the things that has disappointed me very very much indeed in this process that as we have deregulated except in regard to the wages area where with cooperation from the unions we have had restraint, business executives have shown a fair amount of greed. We have in fact complained to the Business Council of Australia and the Federation of Australian Industry that they have allowed enormous increases in executive remuneration. Now I can see that in some areas there is a case for some. But I certainly do believe that there could have been a degree of restraint amongst executives, many executives to match the restraint that's been practised by the trade union movement.

**CALLER:** There is a couple of things. Firstly, concerning health care. I have a young son who has orthodontist trouble and quite honestly we took him up to the dental school and he had surgery and all the work done. Quite honestly it didn't cost us a penny and if it hadn't been for Medicare there was no way I would have been able to afford it which takes me into the other point which I would like to congratulate you on for setting up Medicare and I don't think enough people give you credit and give this government credit for the health care system that we have got, which leads me into the point about the wages policy that the Libs seem to be putting out and the question is where are the differences between the Liberal wages policy, if any and you can call it a policy if that, as against the Labor policy?

**PM:** Thank you for your comments about health care. Just to cover that quickly Howard. When we came to office there were 2 million Australians as you know who weren't covered and for whom the prospect of doctors bills or hospital bills represented a nightmare. We now have a health system which is universal, no member of any Australian family has to worry about meeting those bills and it's fair because you Howard and I who are on higher salaries compared to the rest of the community, we pay more and I think you would agree with me that that is fair. You wouldn't disagree with that so it's universal and it's fair. On wages policy you are right there because I like Howard to just get to your listeners this point. I don't want us to be theoretical about it and saying well would it be worse under the Liberal's wages policies compared with the government's. We can look, we have had the decade of the 80s now behind us and in that decade Australia tested the two policies. In the first couple of years they had the Liberals where they abolished the centralised wage system and they said open slather. We had a wages explosion and it destroyed the economy we had the worst recession in 50 years in this country, unemployment rising, inflation rising. For the first time ever double digit inflation and double digit unemployment. Now I said that there is a better way than that and for the last 7 years we have had wage restraint, we have doubled our economic growth, we have had 5 times the rate of employment growth and in fact our growth has been that strong that I have had to slow it down a bit, last year with higher interest rates but they are now going to be coming off. Now against that Zac, what my opponents are doing is promising a return to the open slather of the past which must mean again a collapse of the economy and the higher interest rates.

**SATTLER:** One question I have got to ask you before you go, please don't take offence. Were you okay during the Great Debate, my listeners are saying he was so reserved, he was so quiet, was he well they said?

**PM:** I was certainly well, look let me ....

**SATTLER:** Have you been asked that before?

**PM:** Yes I have and I have told people this. What I wanted

PM: (cont'd) to do in the debate, it really goes back to some advice I was back in 1959 soon after I had gone to the ACTU. I was talking to a bloke who is a mate of mine and he was a television producer. He said really the secret of television Bob is, in a sense radio but television even more so, is to be talking to the person you are talking too. Don't think that you are talking to millions of people you are talking to one. What I wanted to do in what's referred to as the Great Debate, I wanted to feel as though I was in someone's lounge room talking with them. Now if you are sitting in someone's lounge room talking with them Howard you don't shout and hector.

SATTLER: Beat up on them.

PM: No and I was hoping therefore that you know people would feel well here's Hawkie, we know he's been around for 30 years, we know him, at times he can hector a bit and shout a bit and I have been guilty of that probably haven't done as well as I should at times. That debate was important and I wanted people to feel there I was with them talking with them.

SATTLER: And that's why you were so quiet?

PM: I think when I had to be a bit firm I was but I didn't want to shout and hector.

SATTLER: Left that to your opponent.

PM: I think that happened a bit that way.

SATTLER: Thanks for coming in today. We appreciate that and there's a hard slog to go yet, you have got about what 3 weeks to go.

PM: About that Howard, yes. It's always a pleasure to be with you mate.

SATTLER: Thanks for joining us on the program today and I have said to all the candidates good luck on the 24 March.

PM: Thanks very much, thanks to you and to your listeners.

SATTLER: Happy anniversary tomorrow.

PM: Thanks.

SATTLER: In Alice Springs.

PM: In Alice Springs.

SATTLER: Yes what a place.

PM: It will be about as hot as it was in Perth when we got married, it was 104 the day we got married.

SATTLER: Things have been hotting up ever since.

ENDS