



## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH DEAN BANKS, DENNIS DONOHUE  
AND ROSS STEVENSON, 'LAWYERS, GUNS AND MONEY', RADIO 3AW  
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E & OE - PROOF ONLY

BANKS: It's a very good morning to the Prime Minister Mr  
Bob Hawke. Good morning and thank you for joining us.

PM: Pleasure Dean.

BANKS: Thank you for bringing your entourage.

PM: Good. Well I like following your entourage around  
from station to station too.

BANKS: You were locked in mortal combat there for a  
moment weren't you, or verbal combat with my colleague  
Dennis?

PM: I know he's a paid up member of the Labor Party and  
he's wearing a Liberal badge. I mean, as he said, he'll  
lose his preselection for when I finally leave Wills.

INTERVIEWER: I used to work out there Mr Hawke, but I'm  
impressed by your chunky gold jewellery and your  
impersonation of a real estate agent on our programme.  
It's never struck me before that you had this side  
interest.

PM: No, no, there's nothing chunky about it. Look at  
it.

INTERVIEWER: What a very nice ring it is. Tell me,  
you're in the last week and I suppose you're running  
down. I noticed a very interesting little snippet in The  
Age this morning. I notice someone from the Victorian  
ALP complaining about the fact that the polls have put  
the ALP five percent ahead in Victoria. Is this a new  
art form in politics?

PM: No, it's not but there's a feeling in regard to, and  
I won't mention the poll in question, but there is a  
feeling amongst some of our people that at times it's,  
you know, in the period ... the penultimate poll. They  
make it a bit too good for us and then wrack it back just  
before the election. I don't know whether there's  
anything in that.

INTERVIEWER: Are you talking about the polls deliberately inflating your lead to create a false sense of security?

PM: Well I'm not making that accusation. There is a feeling in some quarters that it happens. But I've got no proof ... so I don't say anything about it.

INTERVIEWER: What's the Rod Cameron poll say Prime Minister?

PM: I'm not uncomfortable with the Rod Cameron poll. But I still make the point Dean, as I have, I never take any election for granted. Never.

INTERVIEWER: I think ... has actually put one over here on the Japanese issue because most Australians in my view are racist, they don't like the Japanese coming out here and developing our land and so on. And for you to tackle him on this issue you're making a lot of good headlines in the newspapers but you're going to lose votes on it.

PM: Well I, .... in politics I suppose in this sense, that this is one thing that I will never compromise on, and you have to compromise in politics on some things, I acknowledge that, but there is one thing I will never in any circumstances compromise on and that is the question of race, racism. For the Opposition, now after this has been on the table for well over two years, and it being known that written strictly into the principles that ... have to guide those examining it, is a strict requirement against any concept of an enclave, for the people just six days before an election to come out and say without any study in detail of the proposal, and Mr Peacock having rejected in September an offer to be briefed on it, to come out and say they are against a proposal which would, could bring technology to Australia, ... from Japan but from Europe and the United States, to say they are against this because it could establish a Japanese enclave is something that I will not walk away from.

INTERVIEWER: Speaking about technology, imagine that there was a technological breakdown on Saturday afternoon and where you're going to watch the result that you're told that you can only have one camera focused on one seat for those results, what would be the seat that you would choose to look at as the, hate to use the word, ... litmus test for the election?

PM: That's a good question Ross. I just need to give it a little bit of thought because I think there are different factors operating in different states.

INTERVIEWER: Can I give you a lead, Malcolm Mackerras said he'd be looking at Melbourne Ports.

PM: Melbourne Ports. Well that wouldn't be a bad one. I mean it'd give you an idea of how the vote was going in Victoria. People are saying that Victoria is important and of course it is. But we're doing very well in Queensland, Tasmania, New South Wales, I think we're holding Western Australia, so I think we can pick up seats we don't hold in Queensland and Tasmania for instance. So one would like to be looking at those. But if you were wanting to get an idea of how Victoria was going, yes, I wouldn't disagree it was a good idea to look at how Melbourne Ports was going.

INTERVIEWER: ... is Melbourne Ports.

PM: There are two or three Melbourne seats you could pick out would give you an idea of how you were going. ... But I don't by saying that think that we'll lose Melbourne Ports. I'm quite confident of holding it.

INTERVIEWER: You say you take a high moral stance on this race issue and the enclave, the Japanese enclave issue, but what about when these people contrive things in your favour. Like when you had a hole in one in the dark on the golf course, ... just had a recent ten-pin bowling experience where they pulled the rug under the pins just -

PM: (inaudible)

INTERVIEWER: - just before the ball -

PM: Did they?

INTERVIEWER: ... - you're not a lawyer, but it's alleged, ...

PM: I would have thought you're on very very dangerous ground. Have you got good cover for defamation?

INTERVIEWER: I don't want to contribute to your next pool or your next tennis court. I hear you've sold your Sandringham home and you're no longer a Melbournite.

PM: No, that's not right. I represent Melbourne. I represent Melbourne.

INTERVIEWER: Tell us about the hole in one. Who was the witness?

PM: The witness. It wasn't in the dark, it was on the 16th at Yowani.

INTERVIEWER: In fairness, a par three.

PM: In fairness, a par three. I'm a good golfer but I'm yet to think that I could get a hole in one on a par four.

INTERVIEWER: I'm a little bit confused about your golf skills because I do see you on television from time to time playing golf and to be quite fair the swing is not as fluid as one would hope.

PM: Mate, to be quite fair, do you know how they follow me at golf? When I whack one off the first tee, down the middle, 230 yards, then pick up my five iron and whack it an extra - y'know you don't see those shots. They wait until the fourth hole when I -

INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

PM: ... Too right.

INTERVIEWER: Were you in Melbourne yesterday for the additions of the Sunday papers?

PM: I was in Melbourne yesterday for the additions of the Sunday papers Ross, yes I was.

INTERVIEWER: Well because, you know, there were stories going around at the time that Rupert Murdoch got The Herald and Weekly Times back, that this was in return for a deal that would guarantee Rupert's support. Now given the McCrann articles of last week and the editorial of The Sunday Herald saying vote Liberal, do you think he's gone back on his word?

PM: Well if there were anything in the story, I mean Rupert could then argue and say oh but look, look at the editorial in the Sunday Telegraph and the Melbourne Sunday Sun which were for us. So I mean I guess he'd have an argument if there was anything in the story, which there isn't.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think The Herald's got it in for you?

PM: No, I don't think The Herald's got it in for us. I have no respect for McCrann. Never have had. He finds it difficult to separate out facts from prejudices. And that's a bit of a limitation for a correspondent. I mean if you can't sort out facts from prejudices you're in trouble. That's always been McCrann's problem.

INTERVIEWER: Well McCrann will have no problems with his swimming pool on the strength of that. You're a wealthy person, you can perhaps swap and give him the Rupert Murdoch swimming pool -

PM: I'll call you ... as a witness probably, not as a defence counsellor ... Do you spend any time in the work now?

INTERVIEWER: Yes, defamation's my -

PM: Yes, I know. ...?

INTERVIEWER: I may.

PM: Thanks.

INTERVIEWER: For the right price.

PM: Right price.

INTERVIEWER: He comes very cheap.

PM: Does he?

INTERVIEWER: Talking of prices and money, the appalling record in this country of the State Banks at the moment, why keep the Commonwealth Bank?

PM: Because the Commonwealth Bank, I think, has over the years developed a, not just a reputation for, but in fact has had a major part of its concern being housing for ordinary people. And of course it's gone beyond that role it had in the early days of being the major savings bank. It's a very very large trading bank as well. I think it's appropriate for the people to have that institution.

INTERVIEWER: Talking about government instrumentalities, I pick up my papers and I listen to the radio and I watch the television, and I hear ads by the RACV on roads. Are you going to do something about that? I mean Dennis probably, being a good Liberal, would support it but I don't want more -

INTERVIEWER: I support the Liberals but I don't support the RACV on politicising the road issue. To me it's irrelevant what a private club wants to do about roads.

PM: Of course, it's a pity they wouldn't concern themselves with facts. I mean the facts on roads are very simple. Again, facts don't worry prejudiced people, like the RAC. Fact one - under my Government we have spent 18% more in real terms in our seven years on roads than they did. Which in dollar terms is \$235 million per annum more on roads under Hawke Labor than under the Liberals beforehand. Fact two - their misrepresentation about the proportion of our revenue that goes on roads. They're just totally untruthful about that. The Government gets its revenue from oil from two sources, from the levy at the rig and the excise at the pump. In this last year my Government has spent 19.46% of our total revenue on roads. In their last year it was 19.04%.

INTERVIEWER: Have you been swatting up on figures ever since Paul Lyneham caught Andrew Peacock out?

PM: No, I just happen to have been a person who a) got a degree in economics, who was appointed by firstly the

Whitlam Government to a major committee of inquiry into the Australian economy - that was the Jackson Committee - and then was appointed by Fraser, by the Fraser Government to the Corporate Committee of Inquiry. I'm a person who has been intimately acquainted with the Australian economy, not just academically but in practical terms, for a very long period of time. I know my country's ...

INTERVIEWER: Dean Banks is intimately acquainted with your academic career, we're going to pursue certain aspects of it shortly.

INTERVIEWER: Let's see whether you're an expert in the laws of the State of Victoria.

PM: ... great expertise there mate.

INTERVIEWER: When we come back and test your legal knowledge on strange laws but true.

break

INTERVIEWER: We were talking sport before. You're synonymous ... in the area of cricket, the punt and also golf. I couldn't believe it when they told me that you got a half blue in baseball.

PM: We're in the situation over in, when I started ... after the war when I went to university, that baseball was a winter sport. So a lot of us who played first grade cricket used to play baseball in the winter months. It was tremendous for keeping your arm in.

INTERVIEWER: Ian Chappell, Allan Border, both played baseball.

PM: Neil Harvey.

INTERVIEWER: Your favourite game Ross.

INTERVIEWER: Great game, great game. Strange laws but true - you've done this before. The segment where we give you three laws, your job, along with Dennis and Dean, they're going to have a crack as well. Just tell us which of these three propositions is correct. Concentrating and ready. Don't sound so enthusiastic.

PM: (inaudible)

INTERVIEWER: I got into trouble at school for saying yeah.

PM: Did you, oh.

INTERVIEWER: Here we go, law number one.

PM: It's so exciting, let's go eh.

INTERVIEWER: That's better. Our story again features young friend Mal Dux. This time Mal Dux is caught up in election fever, or rather non-election fever because Mal Dux believes that people shouldn't vote because it only encourages politicians. Mal Dux votes, he's in rather the Wills electorate. On election day Mal Dux attends his local polling booth and stands directly outside the polling booth distributing how not to vote cards, which are cards urging people to vote informally. After he's been there a short while he's approached by a federal policeman. 'Excuse me sir', says the policeman, 'would you mind moving down to the footpath away from the front door because you are not allowed to distribute campaign material within six metres of a polling booth'. 'I agree with you', says Mal Dux, 'however' - and this is proposition number one - 'I'm not distributing campaign material, I'm distributing material urging people not to vote, so I can stand wherever I jolly well please.' That's law number one. We'll go back over these. Law number two. Mal Dux of course at some stage has to vote himself. Naturally, giving his stance, he intends to vote informal. He enters the polling booth and looks at his ballot paper for the Senate. Now, a leap of imagination, but this Senate ballot paper has the names of eight candidates on it. Mal Dux decides to make his vote informal, in a novel way. He puts numbers next to each different candidate as follows: 1), 2), 3), 4), 5), 6), 87), 7297). Satisfied that he's registered an informal vote he leaves the polling booth and goes to the Horse and Hounds for a cold ... to reward himself. Here he meets barrister friend Dennis Donohue and tells him of the novel way that he's voted informal. Dennis is aghast. And this is proposition number two. 'Mal Dux, what you've done does not make your vote informal. As long as the numbers on the Senate ballot paper are in sequence, and there are changes to no more than two of the votes, your vote is alright. Son, you've voted formally.' Law number three. Dennis goes on, 'tell me Mal Dux, since you've mucked up your chance to vote informally in the Senate, how did you vote informally in the House of Representatives?' 'Well', says Mal Dux, 'I marked all the squares as you're supposed to do but I signed the ballot paper best wishes to you all, Mal Dux.' 'Well Mal Dux', says Dennis, 'I'm sorry but you've failed again. Putting your signature on a ballot paper does not make your vote informal'. Going back over them. Law number one says Mal Dux can stand wherever he likes if he's not distributing campaign material, he's simply distributing material telling people to vote informally. Law number two says as long as the numbers on the Senate ballot paper are in sequence and you haven't changed any more than two, that's ok. Law number three says signing a ballot paper does not make it an informal vote. Now would you like a crack at that or would you like some leadership from Dennis Donohue, ace barrister.

PM: ... he gets paid more than I do. He should go first.

INTERVIEWER: Probably true as a matter of fact.

INTERVIEWER: Number three Ross because I was a scrutineer in the Fitzroy election last year and people wrote things like don't encourage the bastards and things like that and they weren't informal votes. I'll go for number three, to assist you Mr Hawke.

INTERVIEWER: So you reckon that signing a ballot paper doesn't make it an informal vote?

(inaudible)

INTERVIEWER: Dean Banks?

INTERVIEWER: I go for number one.

INTERVIEWER: You reckon that because he's not distributing campaign material he's simply saying to people don't vote, he can stand wherever he likes.

INTERVIEWER: It's a free country.

INTERVIEWER: Prime Minister?

PM: I've got a question before I answer it. Your proposition that one of these laws is right -

INTERVIEWER: One is right.

PM: Only one is right.

INTERVIEWER: Only one is right.

PM: I agree with Dennis. I think it's the last one.

INTERVIEWER: That's good. We've got the Prime Minister, a bloke who earns more than the Prime Minister, and a bloke who earns more than both of them put together, and they can't get the right answer.

PM: Number two.

INTERVIEWER: Number two is the correct answer. As long as you put the numbers in the Senate in sequence that's alright. Distributing material telling people not to vote is campaign material for the purpose of the Commonwealth legislation. And if you sign your ballot paper because that can identify you, that is an informal vote. So you've got to be careful when you register your vote at Wills.

PM: Yes, I've never signed a ballot paper yet.



INTERVIEWER: Perhaps that was the informal vote up in Wills ... Prime Minister.

INTERVIEWER: Prime Minister, it's now my duty -

PM: You're the one who should be embarrassed, not me.

INTERVIEWER: I should be.

PM: You don't look embarrassed.

INTERVIEWER: I was trying to mislead you ...

PM: ... you're a Liberal, so what's new.

INTERVIEWER: Before I ask you about the record, I've got a fax here and someone says that you once said 'I'm a socialist and always will be. I would welcome the demise of the capitalist system provided it was replaced with socialism.' Is that still your stance?

PM: No, it certainly isn't. I'm surprised that I was ever as dogmatic as that. But it's certainly not my view.

INTERVIEWER: Alright, time for the record.

record plays

INTERVIEWER: Thank you Prime Minister for joining us this morning. A small presentation from Dennis Donohue.

INTERVIEWER: It's a car fridge full of hard stuff for when you fall off the wagon after the election and ... too.

PM: Thank you, thank you Dennis. Well I appreciate it very much, and you Dean and you Ross. It's been a pleasure being with you. All the best.

INTERVIEWER: I've just had a call as to what's in the esky and is it going to be shared with the travelling media?

PM: It certainly will be. They can all take one before they go.

INTERVIEWER: That's not a bottle of French in there is it?

PM: An original monastic herbal drink, homemade from an ancient Finland recipe. It's not alcoholic, I can be into it.

INTERVIEWER: Get into it. Good luck in the election Prime Minister.

PM: Thank you very much Dean.

INTERVIEWER: Are you going to call it?

PM: I think we'll win but we've got to fight hard right up till Friday night and that's what we'll be doing.

INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

PM: No, I'm not putting numbers on it mate.

ends