



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF DOORSTOP, REID TAFE, CANBERRA, 7 OCTOBER
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E & O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: What did you think of the game?

PM: Fantastic.

JOURNALIST: Are you pleased that Collingwood won?

PM: Yes, I haven't tipped against them the whole year.

JOURNALIST: What sort of affect on Australia could the non-passing of the US Budget have?

PM: It's too early to say. They are going to be working on it over the weekend. I hope they sort out an acceptable arrangement which is relevant to the significant problem of a very large budget deficit. We can speak with feeling about this because we know that it requires a hard series of decisions on both the outlays and the taxation side. So we can speak from a position of strength on this and I trust that the Congress will have the good sense of responsibility, not only for their own country but for the rest of the world to come to a decision which meaningfully addresses that very serious problem.

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