



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP
DOORSTOP, MELBOURNE
4 MARCH 1992

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J: ...this morning, do you take any heart from the fact that the majority of Australians polled would seem to support the concept of a republic?

PM: Well, I think it is a reflection of a growing sense of independence in Australia, and that independence is again shown here today. This is a very important milestone, this plant, in Australia's industrial history, its development, indeed its independence. This is a first state of the art, world ranking plant which will be developed under the Government's car plans. If you like, part of the renewal of Australian manufacturing in the 1990s and beyond. A plant that will service in the 21st century. It is part of the reason why Australians can make it. We can trade successfully and of course, into the area of the world we live in, the Asia-Pacific, where all the growth is. And it is that, I think, independence and capacity of independence with Australians are feeling. And you are seeing that reflected in polls.

J: On another issue, would you like to see an early election here in Victoria?

PM: Not for me, that's a matter for Premier Kirner.

J: Do you know if members of the ALP are pressuring Mrs Kirner to go early?

PM: Look, I don't know, I don't know.

J: What advice would you have for her?

PM: Look, I've got no advice for Mrs Kirner, she can look after herself in these respects. But I am pleased to see her here today. I am pleased that the Victorian

Government has so supported this project as it has. I mean this is a real thing. I mean often newspapers are talking about things that don't matter. This does matter. This is part of Melbourne's future into the next century. That's what this thing stands for today. This is about, the great change outward to become a sophisticated industrial society and a great vote of confidence by a world ranking company, the Toyota Motor Company, in this country, in Australia, in Australian workers and in the Australian nation, in our competitiveness.

J: Mr Keating, how do you rate your chance in the Wills?

PM: Well, I think the Liberal Party has got a 15 or 20 point lead, that ought to be shoe-in for them, but we will be fighting them all the way.

J: When can those electors expect to go to the polls?

PM: Well, that's got to be decided by the Speaker, amongst other things.

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