



PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP
DOORSTOP, MELBOURNE, 23 JUNE 1992**

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J: Prime Minister, what are the details of the youth summit?

PM: We've given you the date and it will be a private meeting, one where we are trying to I think, do something material and substantial about youth unemployment and provide opportunities for young people. A large part of the initiatives in these respects have been led by my colleague Kim Beazley who has had the responsibility of picking up the Carmichael Report on training and entry level wages and all of those very complex issues, and putting together a discussion with business and with community groups and with young people to see what we can do in terms of a permanent change to the employment of young people in Australia. Can I say that I think the meeting can be a very useful one and Kim's leadership on the issue has been quite profound.

J: Prime Minister, many of the people going to the job summit will be going to the Opposition's jobs forum three weeks before, have you been pre-empted?

PM: It will be all there, all shadow and no substance. There is nothing in the Fightback proposals. This was originally going to be a jamboree for Fightback. There is nothing in the Fightback proposals which would give anyone either money or confidence about labour market programs or training. In fact the great training initiatives the Government had in 'One Nation' for a new national TAFE system are not even comprehended under Dr Hewson's GST Fightback proposal. Now they were supposed to have a fair, a jamboree where they were to sell the consumption tax. They now realise that the going

on that is going to be very tough so now they're going to try and move into the youth unemployment issue – an issue which they have to date shown not the slightest interest. The difference between that and what we're proposing is this is real. This is about a real change in the way the labour market works and about trying to take young people up in employment and to give them training so that they can find jobs in the economy, particularly as the economy recovers which do have those skills which they just won't be able to get without them.

J: Will young jobless people be invited?

PM: They will be represented by the Australian Youth Policy and Action Coalition which is the premier group representing young people.

J: So they won't be there?

PM: They will be there yes.

J: How many unemployed people are you going to have?

PM: That group which will have its own consultations over the next couple of weeks prior to the summit and will have some young people also included in their own delegation.

J: How many full-time jobs do you think the Carmichael Report can actually achieve?

PM: The Carmichael Report is a report about the long-term and the long-term is portending a change for access to young people and the opportunities for them to get on-the-job training and to be employed on an affordable basis for on-the-job-training and to moving into the economy then with some skills. Now this has not been the case in the past so it's a very long run policy.

J: How many sustainable jobs?

PM: I will see what we can do, but we'll have substantial businesses represented. It will be many thousands.

J: Kim Beazley seems to think that young jobless people aren't needed at the summit.

PM: No, you asked Kim about organisational arrangements, some of you, for the summit and you should have asked me because I'm the one putting the arrangements together. Kim's role has been the policy role. Kim has, as you know, come from an educational background to public life and he regards the Carmichael Report and its implementation as being a path breaking and an

important area of policy and to date he has done very well in getting, in a practical way, the debate to this stage and we're all going to try and move it along a bit further.

J: Were Premiers Kirner and Bannon grandstanding if they say the 50,000 jobs in the TCF could go in the next five years?

PM: I'm not sure.

J: Prime Minister, on South Africa, Arch Bishop Tutu today called for the reimposition of sporting sanctions. Does Australia support that call?

PM: I haven't seen what Arch Bishop Tutu has said. We can only hope that the CODESA process continues, that the parties there can see their way clear to resolve the current problems and get back to the discussions for a democratic South Africa.

J: Do you believe the All Blacks should continue with their tour?

PM: Look, we have lifted sporting sanctions and I'm not going to pre-empt or pre-judge the situation at this distance. We'll see what the future holds and there are still some other sanctions which are applying and they will continue to apply.

J: Do we need another cut in interest rates to help employment.

PM: Again, I'm not going to give forecasts about interest rates at doorsteps.

J: Prime Minister, are you at all inclined to link the 'One Nation' statement with tariff changes in the way that Premiers Bannon and Kirner suggested on Sunday?

PM: You always ask the hard questions. You always come at us about employment and the gloomy aspects of economic life and because I know you are a supporter of the Liberal Party. But the fact of the matter is ...

J: That's an absurd proposition.

PM: It's not absurd, you are a supporter of the Liberal Party. The fact is that the Government has over the 1980s sought to make Australia a newer country, a country which can trade its way in the world and where jobs are real and sustainable. And that's what is happening in Australia now. There has been a great fundamental transition to exports, the country is exporting its head off, it has been since the 1980s and it's still doing it. What we need is more growth because as people are displaced, and they have been displaced as the

efficiencies of certain companies and industries have changed, we need to take them up with higher levels of aggregate growth and aggregate employment.

J: What about the tariff changes suggested by the Premiers?

PM: Like everything else, they will be considered.

J: Prime Minister, why if Kim Beazley as Employment Minister, why wasn't he let known that you were going to have youth unemployed?

PM: There is a process, and the process is that the arrangements were being settled and have been settled over the last couple of days. The summit has been organised by me and my Department and not by Mr Beazley and his.

J: Why didn't you notify him?

PM: Don't concentrate on the negative. It's always a problem with you people, we're about to make a break through on youth unemployment and some of you just harp on pointless negatives.

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