



PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING MP
DOORSTOP, REIDFERN PARK, SYDNEY, 10 SEPTEMBER 1992**

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J: 11.4 per cent unemployment.

PM: It is a very disappointing figure, very disappointing, and the only light we can see on that horizon is the increase in vacancies which seems to be going on now quite inexorably around the country. But the figures are volatile, we had unemployment rising by one per cent in Queensland in a month and falling one per cent in Western Australia in a month, and obviously that's not happened.

J: The aggregate figure is still going up isn't it?

PM: But the aggregates are going up and they are not going to turn down until the growth we've got now does accelerate.

J: Do you think that you have missed an opportunity by not going early to an election? You've let the Coalition off the hook.

PM: No, no, the Coalition... just imagine, whatever problems we've got today with unemployment, what would we have if there was a 15 per cent tax on everything, or a \$7 billion cut to the Budget. They have got no policy prescriptions and what John Hewson's proven this week is they don't even have courage in the one they believed in.

J: But they've got flexibility.

PM: They got fright, that's it, they have taken fright, that's what has happened to them.

ENDS