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## PRIME MINISTER

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**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP  
DOORSTOP, SEX DISCRIMINATION SEMINAR, PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
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**PM:** I can just say this is a real world response from one of the world's major motor companies to the unreal world policies of Dr Hewson. Dr Hewson's had an absolute sleigh ride for the last year with one of the most brutal policy documents that's ever been proposed by an Australian political leader. But now it's coming under examination and people think it's not just a throw away manifesto but something that he actually wants to do. The major companies, like Ford, like Toyota, and others are looking at what the implications are, and what the Ford Motor Company are saying is that if Tariffs go to zero there'll be no further investment by Ford in Australia. That means no Falcon replacement. That means that cities like Geelong and places like Broadmeadows will suffer accordingly as that investment flags. And the Toyota company has also made clear its view as have Mitsubishi on six hundred million dollars of investment in South Australia. So, the careful work that the Government put into establishing a set of policies for the motor industry are just being brushed to one side by Dr Hewson, who has no respect for our work, or the fact that it was done co-operatively with business over a long period of time. And all Australians should note that the stridency is going to produce a lot of problems in Australia, and that's no less true for the motor industry.

**J:** Isn't this just the motor industry playing politics though prior to an election?

PM: No, no. The motor industry played its politics before the tariff cuts and changes were announced in 1991. That's when the politics were played. What they're playing now is they're making clear they don't play out their death throes. Because at zero – you don't have to be an economic genius to know this is true – with production runs in Australia only about as high as 40,000, when some of the production runs in the northern hemisphere are a quarter of a million or more, that a glut of cars in the northern hemisphere shipped into Australia at marginal prices will simply knock out the Australian motor vehicle industry. I mean it is not simply as the Opposition would have you believe, the motor industry playing games, it's a reality. And that reality's going to be just as true in industrial relations as Dr Hewson's workplace reforms so-called pit one Australian against another. It's going to be just as true in health as they smash Medicare and push everybody back to private insurance. The fact is, this is a very strident, crude sort of capitalist type policy which I had thought that Liberal leaders long ago had abandoned. But of course not so with Dr Hewson.

J: Do you think that this will encourage the Opposition to change its policies to bring its tariff policies back in line with the Government?

PM: Well, it's the Government which has had the courage to make all these structural changes and we're not going to be running to the beat of Dr Hewson's drum, who's come into these subjects as some sort of dilettante, making declarations without consultation. Without knowing what makes a car company tick, without understanding industrial relations. That sort of fanaticism, we're not going to have a bar of it. We're not going to be seeking any sort of bi-partisanship with him. Not on these things.

ENDS