



## **PRIME MINISTER**

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP,  
DOORSTOP, HYATT HOTEL, CANBERRA, 26.10.92**

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**J: ... Irish presidents are welcome?**

**PM: Well they are with me particularly, so I had a very good talk.**

**J: What sort of things did you discuss?**

**PM: I think she said at the Press Club that we should keep the content of our discussions private, and I think that is a good rule.**

**J: Mr Keating do you believe that the Coalition is going to impose a wage freeze?**

**PM: I will answer just this one question. The Coalition is going to push 8 million Australians onto common law wage contracts. What Dr Hewson established yesterday was he has not the faintest idea about how he will protect the living standards of Australians against exploitation by anybody who may employ them. All the flexibility that anyone requires in the labour market in this country is now available through the system of enterprise bargaining and enterprise agreements, which this Government has established. The only flexibility that we don't provide is flexibility down - cutting people's pay and cutting their conditions of work. In the end that's what John Hewson and John Howard are after, they are after their pay packet. That's why they're slipping and sliding over this question of minimum rates of pay. It's the old Tory agenda, it has never changed.**

**ends**