



# PRIME MINISTER

46/94

## STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP

### THE DOWNER SHADOW MINISTRY

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Downer, has failed his first test in the job by announcing a frontbench larger than the Government's.

All his talk about having a commitment to smaller government is exposed as humbug. The best he could do was to trim Dr Hewson's Gargantuan shadow ministry down to 32 members - still two more than the Government.

And so much for a "fresh start." His "new look" shadow ministry now includes no fewer than three failed Leaders of the Opposition, and presumably the "new blood" is typified by the return to the frontbench of the former Fraser Government minister John Moore.

The list of Shadow Ministers and Shadow Parliamentary Secretaries issued by Mr Downer today includes a grand total of 45 people. That is, virtually everyone who voted for Mr Downer last Monday, plus two - presumably Dr Hewson and Dr Wooldridge.

The ethnic community will also note with concern that Mr Downer has not included Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in his Shadow Cabinet, relegating it to the outer shadow ministry.

- ✓ The appointment of Dr Hewson to the Industry portfolio will underwhelm many in the business community, who withdrew their support for Dr Hewson so pointedly last week. The car industry, for one, will not relish dealing with the man who wanted to impose Fightback's zero tariff policy, thereby rendering our motor vehicle industry uneconomic and driving it offshore.

Mr Downer needs to try harder.

**CANBERRA**  
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