



PRIME MINISTER

51/94

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP
ALLEGATION BY MR HAWKE**

A Channel Nine news report has tonight broadcast what purports to be a verbatim account of a conversation between Mr Hawke and myself in 1991. According to Channel Nine, these remarks are contained in Mr Hawke's book. I categorically deny ever making these remarks.

The allegation is deeply offensive and defamatory. It is clearly intended to personally vilify and politically damage me.

I have served 25 years in the Australian Parliament, 11 years as a Cabinet Minister and two and a half years as Prime Minister. People can choose to believe the record, and what is on the record - the real, tangible testaments of my affection for Australia and devotion to its interests - or they can believe Mr Hawke's alleged fragment of a private conversation.

**CANBERRA
23 JUNE 1994**