



PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER THE HON PJ KEATING MP
DOORSTOP – ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC CHURCH MARRICKVILLE
WEDNESDAY, 9 AUGUST 1995**

PJK: You want me to say something about Fred – well he was a great Labor figure. His special place for all of us was that he was the link to the forties governments. He was the link to the Curtin and Chifley years. He was only thirty when he joined the Curtin Government and he had that relationship with Curtin as the youngest member of the Caucus. And he developed, I think, a very special relationship with Chifley. As a young man he was a great devoted follower of Chifley's. So he saw that period of Labor Government and he knew what a Labor Government was over an extended time and he had that continuity. Of course then through most of his life he was in Opposition and he came to government in 1972 with Gough Whitlam and had three years of it. He retired in 1975 after thirty years. So his Ministerial life was for three years only but his political life was over thirty. For us he was the link to the Curtin and Chifley years. He was very much a Labor traditionalist. He made light of the fact that he was in Opposition for most of his life and picked up the anecdotes that he told others, but he was a serious Labor person with serious commitments to the community and he was no humbug. And I think it is those values that we all cherished in him and that we'll all miss.

J: You sat at the Cabinet table with him. What did you personally learn from Fred Daly?

PJK: There was a fair amount of forgiveness in Fred I think. The split in the fifties of course was the dreadful agony they all lived through. But the joy of coming to office in '72 saw all of that peel away from him and he took the best of his life – the best things of his life – and celebrated them. I think that's the lesson that we can take.

J: Can I just ask you one other question, there was a French newspaper talking about ethnic cleansing in Australia. Do you have a response to that?

PJK: Well only that it holds the values of Australians in contempt. We gave up our colonialism in the 1970's, the French are still hanging on to their colonialism in the Pacific. Maybe the French should have a good look at themselves.

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