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# PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP  
DOORSTOP, NATIONAL ART GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA  
22 AUGUST 1995**

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J: Any comment on the appointment of Sir William Deane?

PM: Well, I think he brings, amongst a few people, almost unparalleled vista of the Constitution, he's made clear the symbiotic relationship between the public in our democracy, and the Constitution. He has been a very progressive Judge on matters which have been of quite substantial moment to Australia. He is amongst a few - one can't say uniquely, but near uniquely - fitted to the task of Governor-General, which I think he will execute with great dignity and commitment.

J: ...(inaudible)...

PM: He has already played a substantial part, of course, in the Native Title judgement, and I think he is exercised by the notion that the law is a living thing, and that these were social questions that needed to be addressed by the law - he did then, and I am sure when he says that, he will take that opportunity, because I think coming to terms on a sort of deep basis of reconciliation with our indigenes has been something obviously on his mind for most of his legal and judicial life.

J: How long can Carmen Lawrence continue to enjoy your support.

PM: Well, she has enjoyed it to this point.

ends.