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PRIME MINISTER

BEAZLEY STILL IN DENIAL

A litany of negatives is no substitute for an alternative economic plan.

Mr Beazley failed tonight to explain how he would pay off his bankcard - the legacy of his failed and weak years as Finance Minister.

The Coalition Government didn't create the debt and deficit, but we have taken the responsibility to fix it.

Mr Beazley cannot have it both ways.

Tonight Mr Beazley sought to take credit for past Labor Budget surpluses - even smoke and mirror ones. His economic spokesman, Mr Evans, even supports the Government's fiscal strategy of returning the budget to underlying balance within three years.

Until Mr Beazley explains Labor's alternative path to achieve this bipartisan fiscal strategy, he can't have any credibility for attacking the Government.

Which taxes would Mr Beazley increase or introduce?

Which expenditure cuts does Mr Beazley offer in the place of measures to fairly share the burden he left Australia?

22 August 1996

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