

Joint Parties 21 October 1975 at 10.30 a.m.

Political situation

Fraser: Whitlam breaking all constitutional practice - dishonest Government - loans affair - executive minute of 13 December - knowledge by Whitlam of Harris letter before Cairns resignation - Khemlani statement on PM significant - 15-20,000 at Melbourne rally - there is a job of explanation to do - several to talk on radio/TV today.

Peacock: attendance at Melbourne rally tremendous significance - full support needs to be shown at this stage - unaware any Opposition member with doubts.

Cormack: press reports of last party meeting greatly damaging parties - must be able to speak mind in confidence.

Fraser: support Cormack comments - national interests involved.

Anthony: Sunday rally enormous - great upsurge of support.

McMahon: great support by young at rally - everyone wanted Fraser.

Martin: story in National Times quite wrong - no chance she will waver.

Fraser: press will go on and on printing these stories.

Staley: Whitlam member Constitutional Review Committee - recommended that election be result of Senate rejection of money bills, after joint sitting.

Wright: at all times admitted that Senate had unique powers - deadlock resolved S.57 - entitled to reject money bill - result is election - criminal conspiracy of loans affair and ACTU-Solo the cause of that rejection.

Killen: believe people recognise dishonesty - this dishonesty goes right to the top - needs emphasis.

Graham: Whitlam's case is that no charges have been laid and should be pressed.

Greenwood: Hansard full of charges - and quotes of Whitlam.

Wood: value of publicity shown by Whitlam over weekend - made some progress - loans issue can be used by inviting Khemlani to select committee of Senate - publicity should be more direct.

Jessop: deplores press reports - attack back to Government - agreed with Wood on advertising - believe in interests of Party and Senate - feels reservation about timing.

Staley: ACTU-Solo still much to emerge - very significant.

Newman: much concern but no reaction against opposition - reference that Oakes has written that Caldwell and Whitlam clashed on this issue.

Kelly: comment on A.M. by Scott that would make impossible for L-NCP Government to govern.

Fraser: J. McClelland issued threat - nothing new.

Hunt: older people worried - not established that 1. Whitlam liar, 2. that Executive minute 13.12.75 illegal, 3. that have Constitutional power.

Calder: strongly in favour - but ALP message coming through stronger.

Missen: hundreds telegrams etc. cause concern and message not got through - course of action will determine future decisions.

Cormack: 1949 propaganda battle was "John Henry Austral" show - example of what is needed - otherwise only leadership can get message out.

Ruddock: there is concern but most people hold their views as before.

Bessell: many complaints.

Snedden: all that has happened was foreseen - Government resistance expected - who has the greatest will - be confident and determined - and morale party structure needs encouragement - never turn back.

Anthony: publicity to go out from all members.

Laucke: had reservations before - firmly abide by support given last week.

Fraser: ALP branches given quotas of telegrams to send - all predictable - we here to do what we believe right - principle of rejecting money bill same now as at April or May - events of last month provided justification for our decision last week - must win.

Sinclair: necessary for leaders to ask most questions - MPI should be dishonesty of PH - if any MPI or questions - then Appropriation Bills - we had better tone in House last week and we must continue it.

Inter-State Commission Bill

Nixon: previously discussed - amendments satisfactory to non-Labor Premier and would take out all but advisory role.

Wright: reviewed efforts to have Commission brought into being - his amendment an endeavour to assist Tasmania.

Nixon: Wright's amendment would be in conflict with Industrial Bill - Shadow Cabinet considered implications carefully and cannot agree.

Bessell: Tasmanians will have to vote for Wright's amendments.

Townley: will not vote for.

Wright: Government will withdraw bill.

Nixon: very carefully reviewed by large number - ought to agree recommendation.

Anthony (Chairman): Party general support for recommendation and not Wright's view.

Wright: will formally move but not call division - most unfortunate decision in industrial and inter-state trade areas.

Jessop: what industrial policy conflict?

Street: 2 bodies with considerable powers much more complex.

Webster: should not pass bill now but leave in limbo.

Nixon: not considered in last week - but this the right course in difficult judgement.

Agreed to amend

Consumer Protection Bill

Howard: inadequate time for implications to be studied, particularly the States.

Defer 30 days

Social Service and Repatriation Bills

Chipp: Government may try to delay to argue we prevented pensions being paid - if so, we should move for early debate.