

Joint Parties 4 November 1975 at 10 a.m.

Political Situation

Fraser: quick action necessary because of Whitlam's statement that he could govern without supply - meeting of State leaders convened in Melbourne - outcome was to offer to Governor-General - Staff Planning Committee reported firming of attitude in all States - tactics today to expose what devices Government will use to circumvent supply.

Jarman: survey in Deakin over weekend - 161 sample gave good result.

Fraser: only poll which counts is voting intention - W.A. by-election result showed Labor down.

Rae: call for election before July fits with Whitlam's referendum proposal for concurrent elections.

Anderson: not pleased with compromise offer in view of our determination last week and the meeting today - not understand as supply to be passed in April 1976.

Baume: found out through taxi driver.

Fraser: was dependent on meeting with Governor-General and had to announce immediately, or Whitlam's office would distort - Party must accept sudden acts are sometimes necessary - unanimity of State leaders and Shadow Cabinet - accept the point but not always possible to refer to party or contact members.

McMahon: leader must have full authority - leaks creating problems to him and others in working for the party.

Anderson: rung by journalist, asked for comment on Anthony statement, what all about?

Wright: what action to force decision this week, or next week? - have relevant Acts been examined?

Wood: we allowed Whitlam to take offensive - use Rae's point against Whitlam.

Edwards: must emphasise the basic weakness of the economy throughout.

Jessop: effectiveness of ALP propaganda machine - many Government Departments claiming to have no money - can we check on their funds available?

Cameron: should be advertisements placed stating pensions will not be delayed.

Ian Robinson: strength of our leaders an advantage - stick to our position - should not advertise about pensions - should expose the lies of Ministers.

Anthony: "State of the Nation" comment was run by media as backdown - this is press technique - like CIA nonsense.



Tertiary Education Commission Bill

Guilfoyle: amend to protect State Governments balance of certain courses - review effect of amalgamation of 2 Commissions.

Amend

States Grants (Universities) Bill

Guilfoyle: use to point out drop of students to be enrolled.

Agreed to

Nursing Homes Assistance Bill

National Health (Nursing Homes) Bill

Guilfoyle: provides increased payments to Nursing Homes - some States not get an increase, and should be a committee to look into.

Agreed to  
with second reading  
amendment for enquiry

Australian Housing Corporation Bill

McLeay: move 2nd reading amendments, not oppose in Senate - express concern of Government body capacity to raise loans.

Amend in House

Appropriation (Urban Public Transport) Bill

Road Acts Amendment Bill

Nixon:

Agreed to

Aboriginal Land (Northern Territory) Bill

Aboriginal Councils and Associations Bill

Ellicott: move to refer to Aboriginal Committee for the representations that promised by Minister - in Senate refer to a committee if not agreed to in House.

Refer to  
Committees

States Grants (Aboriginal Assistance) Bill

Ellicott:

Agreed to