

Leader of the Opposition

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF THE APPROPRIATION BILLS WERE NOT PASSED TODAY, HE WOULD GO TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE TO RECOMMEND A HALF SENATE ELECTION. IF HE DID NOT GET A MAJORITY IN THAT HALF SENATE ELECTION, HE WOULD STILL REFUSE TO RECOMMEND A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE'S ELECTION.

HE SAID IF THE BUDGET BILLS WERE PASSED HE WOULD NOT HAVE A HALF SENATE ELECTION UNTIL LATER IN THE YEAR.

BUT TRIED TO ATTACH A CHANGE IN THE VOTING SYSTEM TO THAT, WHICH HE DID NOT PRESS.

HE VIRTUALLY INVITED US TO REJECT THE BUDGET NOW SO THAT IT COULD BE PUT UP AGAIN IN THREE MONTHS AND REJECTED AGAIN AS A DOUBLE DISSOLUTION MEASURE, BUT GAVE NO UNDERTAKING IT WOULD LEAD TO A DOUBLE DISSOLUTION.

HE MADE IT PLAIN HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT TEMPORARY SUPPLY FOR THE PERIOD OF A HALF SENATE ELECTION. HE MADE IT PLAIN HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT SUPPLY UNTIL THE END OF FEBRUARY, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IF THE BUDGET BILLS OR WHAT REMAINED OF THEM WERE AGAIN DEFERRED OR REJECTED, THAT THERE WOULD BE A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE'S ELECTION. HE REFUSED TO PROVIDE ANY TECHNICAL ADVICE OR LEGAL

ADVICE IN RELATION TO HIS OPERATION WITH THE BANKS, AND AGAIN REJECTED THE PROPOSALS WE HAD PU

Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

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