Never before has a Government gone to the polls with such a record as that of this last Liberal-Country Party Government of ours. You will remember the legacy of industrial unrest, of Communism in the unions, of shortages of every essential material that had to be overcome. The industrial problem was the first one that had to be tackled, for this was holding up production in every sphere making it extremely difficult for farmers to improve their properties and for factories to work efficiently.

Many people have not been able to understand how it is that the Liberal-Country Party Government has succeeded so well when the Labour Party, before 1949, failed so lamentably. The answer is twofold: the secret ballot made it possible for the first time for every decent unionist to have his say in his union affairs, and I for one will never be able to understand how it is that the Labour Party steadfastly opposed the secret ballot and thus not only accepted but encouraged intimidation and graft in the unions.

But this was not the only thing. Mr. Harold Holt, as Minister for Labour, made it his business to consult the unions when any measures were contemplated that would affect union members, and so, when final decisions were made, they embodied the opinions of everyone concerned.

These two things have given us a large measure of industrial peace—an industrial peace that has been the foundation upon which we can go ahead and develop our country.

To-day, production is higher in every field than it has been before. We can get the materials we need to improve our properties, and factories are not held up by shortages of power or raw materials.

But above all, we have full employment and a higher level of prosperity than we ever had before. When I was last in Hamilton Employment Office, I found that there had not been one man receiving unemployment benefits since last November, a fine tribute to the Federal Government, which alone can create the conditions under which the full employment of every man and woman is possible. These policies of full employment and industrial peace have made it possible not only to considerably increase social services, but also to decrease taxation. The results are all the more remarkable when we think that the Government had not only to overcome legacies of former unrest, but also to arrest what could have turned into a severe economic crisis, for in 1932 our export income fell as drastically as it had in the 1930's, when unemployment reached 30% of trade unionists. But in 1932
unemployment was checked at only 2% of unionists, and we now have higher employment than we ever had before.

In addition to this, there was the further obstacle of the Korean War which had to be fought and won.

We must eagerly await the Government's plans for the future, for its record in the past is a guarantee that their promises and plans for the future will be fulfilled.

As a candidate in this election, I have the support of a strong, united Liberal-Country Party, of a Party which has been extraordinarily successful in its recent term of office. We know the achievements of the past four years, and are keenly awaiting for the future development of this nation. But quite apart from this record and promise for the future, any candidates coming before the people must have an unshakeable belief in the importance of every man, woman and child, for the individual happiness of every citizen must be the first thought of men seeking to serve the nation. Australia is great only while our men and women are free from fear and want, and only while our children can play without the shadow of unhappiness passing across their faces.

At the Liberal Convention, at which I was chosen candidate, I promised that from the moment the Convention doors closed, I would go out and spend my whole time meeting the people of Wannon and learning the great and diverse needs of this area. In recent months I have travelled fifteen thousand miles, and visited every corner of the electorate, so that if I am chosen as representative of the people, I will have had contact with all sections of the community, and I believe this is the only way in which a Representative can do a just and fair job for every person in his electorate.

My ambition is to cherish and maintain the individual interests and happiness of every person, for this is surely the most important task that lies before us to-day. If I am elected, I shall visit every corner of Wannon as often as other duties permit, so that each person can have a chance to meet and discuss any individual problems.

My one hope is that I may be given the opportunity to play my part in the great work that lies before this Government, and to show you that these beliefs and ideas lie very near to my heart.
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