

MR WHITLAM: <sup>48</sup>((The *main*)) issue, almost the **sole** issue, of *this campaign*, will be.. **whether**.. the **government** which the.. *people elect*, with a **majority** in the House of Representatives, will be *allowed to govern*.. from **now on**. <sup>49</sup>The **whole** of *this system*.. is *under challenge*, as we see. <sup>50</sup>Now, up till the *very last division*, in the House of Representatives, it was **plain**.. that **my** government.. *had*.. a *majority* in the House of Representatives, where, we've **always** believed, *governments* should be made, and *unmade*. <sup>51</sup>We *won* that division by.. a *majority of ten votes*: *sixty-four* for us, *fifty-four* for the *others*. <sup>52</sup>And uh, during this *campaign*, the *overwhelming issue will be*.. 'Are we to **have**.. **three-year** governments in *Australia*? **Is** the *party*, which gets a *majority in the House of Representatives*, to be allowed to *govern*.' <sup>53</sup>That is, it's the *future*.. of **parliamentary** *democracy* as we have *known* it.

REPORTER 2: <sup>54</sup>- er.. the Governor-General has *stated* that the reason for *dismissing* you is that you no longer have *Supply*, and cannot *govern*. <sup>55</sup>At *any stage* did *he* tell you along the way that ah.. he would *dismiss* you before *Supply* ran out on.. November *thirty*; in other words tell you that if you *wanted* to have a Half-Senate you *ought* to have it.. have it *done* by the.. November *thirty*..

MR WHITLAM: <sup>56</sup>No; no, that was **not** the *advice* that.. I gave to the Governor-General nor was it the.. er.. 'impression' that the Governor-General gave *me*. <sup>57</sup>*Supply* had **not** run out, by the time I saw the Governor-General.. at one o'clock today, .. er and uh as we **all know**, about a quarter past **two** this afternoon.. the *Budget* bills were **passed**; and *when* Mr *Fraser*.. *read*.. *portions*.. of Sir John Kerr's.. 'views', to the House of *Representatives*, *those* views were.. no **longer**.. 'well-based', because, by **that time**, *Supply*.. had been **passed**, the **Budget** bills.. had been **passed**.

REPORTER 3: <sup>58</sup>Are you saying that at.. **no stage** in the talks you had with the Governor-General.. did *he*.. give- leave you with an *impression* that.. he *thought* that a *General Election* was mm.. the proper *course*.

MR WHITLAM: <sup>59</sup>On the *contrary*; he gave me the.. **other** impression. <sup>60</sup>He *he* knew that.. *I had* and ah.. was *likely*.. to **continue** to have.. a *majority*.. in the House of *Representatives*, and he also **knew** of course that.. the *Opposition*.. **didn't** have a majority in the *Senate*.

REPORTER 4: <sup>61</sup>Are you saying, Mr *Whitlam* he misled you?

REPORTER 5: <sup>62</sup>(( Did you attempt to )) get in *touch* with

MR WHITLAM: mm?

REPORTER 5: *with* Buckingham *Palace* or with.. *London* about the actions of the Governor-General?

MR WHITLAM: <sup>63</sup>The Governor-General.. **prevented** me in getting in touch with the *Queen* by.. just *withdrawing* m' commision.. **immediately**. <sup>64</sup>I was.. **unable**.. to *communicate*.. er *with* the *Queen*, as I would have been **entitled** to do.. er if I'd had any **warning** of the *course*.. that *he*, the Governor-**General**, er.. was to *take*.

REPORTER 6: <sup>65</sup>Do you *believe* the *Queen* **knew** about this course of action?, that the Governor-General-

MR WHITLAM: <sup>66</sup>I *shouldn't* bel- I *shouldn't* **think** so but *I don't* **know**.

REPORTER 7: <sup>67</sup>Sir, are you *suggesting*- <tape ends>