

## **Concession Speech: Robert Menzies, Opposition Leader (LP)**

***Melbourne: September 29, 1946***

“The result is profoundly disappointing.

It looks at present like a new Senate by July next, with 33 to three in favour of Labour and the Government holding a reduced but adequate majority in the House of Representatives.

We may, therefore, expect undisputed Socialist rule, a steady weakening of the authority of the law (especially the industrial law), and continued depression of individual initiative.

My own campaign of the last three years would be unreal if I did not feel that a disastrous popular decision has been made.

One good feature of the vote is that it has shown that the people have no patience with small parties which are brought into existence, sometimes very hurriedly, and which, having no hope of success themselves, serve only to confuse the issue.

I would like to point out to the Liberal Party and its organisation that the work achieved in less than two years of active existence has been extremely good.

We have reduced the Government’s vote in practically every State except Victoria, and we have been able not only to evolve a vigorous policy, but also to produce some extremely good candidates, of whom, I hope, the organisation will not lose sight.

After the 1943 election the problem was one of rebuilding.

After the 1946 election our task is to continue to build upon the very fine foundations already laid.”

Source: Compiled from the Argus, Canberra Times, Sydney Morning Herald, 30/9/1946, page 1, The Age.