

## **Concession comments: Arthur Calwell, Opposition Leader (ALP)**

***Melbourne, December 19<sup>th</sup> 1961***

“The future of Australian politics held “many interesting possibilities.

The Menzies Government, at best, has escaped the wrath of the electorate for the time being only. It has retained neither the confidence of the people nor their respect.

It has crept back into office battered and bruised, depressed and dispirited, but it shows no evidence of contrition for the harmful policies it has operated, and gives no indication that it intends to change them.

The voters have rejected the Government’s policies overwhelmingly, but this has not affected the thinking of Ministers and their supporters in the least.

They are not worried about ever growing unemployment, the slackness of the Christmas trade, or business stagnation.

They are far too busy fighting each other for the jobs vacated by defeated colleagues, too preoccupied with intrigues and personal vendettas to worry about the public or the state of the economy.

The grand partnership between the Liberal and Country parties, of which Mr. McEwen spoke so glowingly during the election campaign, has now become the grand squabble for the spoils of office.

The Labor Opposition strengthened in numbers and, with new men of ability joining its ranks in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, will pursue the policy put forward in my policy speech, because this policy and no other can save Australia in its present plight.”

Source: Compiled from The Age, December 20<sup>th</sup> 1961, page 3 and original documents.