

## **Victory Speech: William Hughes, Prime Minister (ALP)**

***The Bendigo Town Hall, December 20<sup>th</sup> 1919***

“ A great victory has been won at the polls by the party which I have the honor to lead. It is not a defeat for Labor as some people claim. It is a defeat for disloyalty – (cheers) – for direct action, for Bolshevism, for the “go slow” policy – a defeat for everything that was mean, paltry and selfish in our midst - not a defeat for Labor. (Cheers) The cause of Labor is a still to me, and to those who fought for it in the years that were gone, as sacred as it ever was. Only when it has allowed its feet to slip from the firm pedestal on which it stood and sold itself for thirty pieces of silver has it met with the defeat, which it deserved. Those unfortunates who have followed the chariot wheels of that party which was driven to disloyalty, by direct action, and by every one of those elements in our midst that made for destruction and decadence see now that they have followed false leaders who have led them again to defeat.”

Source: Compiled from The Age, December 21<sup>st</sup> 1919, page 7 and original documents.