

Victory speech: James Scullin, Opposition Leader (ALP)

Radio station 3BD, Melbourne: October 14, 1929

“I wish to express my appreciation of the magnificent vote recorded for the Labour party, and my gratitude for the shoal of congratulatory telegrams and letters I have received.

The incoming Ministry will have many important problems to face and a great obligation to meet.

Australia’s economic, industrial, and financial position will require careful consideration and wise administration.

There is a £5 million deficit to meet, and unemployment is more acute than at any previous period in Australian industry.

Sir Arthur Robinson has said that the Labour victory will increase unemployment and industrial unrest.

We hope to prove that Sir Arthur Robinson is a false prophet.

At the same time we recognise that there is hard work ahead of us.

The Labour Ministry will proceed with the proposals which it submitted to the electors and will face with confidence and determination the problems presented for solution.

The people have declared in no uncertain manner, for the maintenance of the Federal Arbitration Court.

By their votes they have given a mandate to the new Ministry to amend the Act, to remove legal technicalities and the penal clauses.

Conciliation must replace coercion, and reason must be brought to bear on the solution of industrial troubles.

Our aim will be to promote harmony by setting up impartial tribunals for the regulation of industry, and we will be glad to have the co-operation of all who are engaged in industry.”

Source: Compiled from The Sydney Morning Herald, October 15th 1929, page 11 and original documents.