

Victory Speech: Joseph Lyons, Prime Minister (United Australia Party)

Melbourne: September 16, 1934

“I desire to express my heartfelt thanks to those electors who on Saturday so tangibly expressed their faith in the Ministry, and assure them that we will try at all times to be true to the very great trust they have reposed in us.

The result of the election can only be regarded by the Ministry as highly satisfactory.

It is a striking endorsement of the policy we have followed in our efforts to help Australia along the path of recovery, and I take it literally as a vote of confidence.

It is all the more remarkable when we bear in mind that all over the world Governments have fallen one after the other in the strenuous years of depression.

Saturday’s election must be about the only one since the depression in which the Government of a nation has been re-elected.

It is true that we shall lose several seats, but we shall also gain at least two.

The United Australia Party will still be the largest party in the House of Representatives – overwhelmingly so – and this result should be gratifying to all supporters who worked earnestly for the cause of sound government.

While the result is encouraging to the Government to continue along the lines it has followed and along the lines it has indicated in my policy speech, it has perhaps an even more important bearing upon the welfare of Australia, because it will be acclaimed throughout the world as a sign that the Commonwealth will have nothing of unsound financial schemes, and our credit abroad should maintain its present splendidly high level.”

Source: Compiled from the Sydney Morning Herald, Argus, 17/9/1934, page 9 and The Age.