

Victory speech: Bob Menzies, Prime Minister (LP)

Hotel Windsor, Melbourne: December 1, 1963

“I have been told that I ought to say something. I went to bed last night with a general idea we had had a good win.

Everyone was explaining to everyone else how good it was, or how less good it was: but this afternoon, when I was driving with my family, I shocked them by saying, ‘You know, on the whole it could have been worse.’

It was a very remarkable victory.

Of course, I would be deceiving myself if I said I did not expect to win. In my best moments I thought to myself, yes, 10, I’ll settle for 10. If somebody would go to 12, splendid.

Now it will be a much bigger majority. This is not easy when conducting my seventh consecutive election. Anything might have happened.

From my point of view all the right things happened, particularly in the State of New South Wales, where the results have been quite remarkable.

I would not want anybody to suppose I will just say, this is wonderful – this is a marvelous majority for all these years and elections.

The truth of the matter is that what the people have done is to say, ‘Well once more we give you our confidence.’

When people give you their confidence they impose on you a very great responsibility.

All I can say is I hope for the next week to, what is the expression, be doggo.

I would not mind a week off thinking about this and that.

Thereafter we will be back into the job preparing for the first session of the new Parliament, preparing legislation to give effect to a number of our proposals.

I would like everybody to understand that so far from relaxing I think all I have done in this election is to sentence myself to a few years of hard labor. I am not unaccustomed to that.

There is a lot of work to be done. The world is a difficult place.

We have stated our views. We must maintain them and give effect to them.

And so I would like to say to my supporters thank you, and all the people of Australia thank you for the trust you have imposed in my colleagues and myself.

We will do our best to discharge this.”