

Victory Speech: Malcolm Fraser, Prime Minister (LIB)

December 10 1977

“Well, ladies and gentlemen I’d like to say that I thank the people of Australia very much for the confidence that they have shown in my government.

I believe, very significantly they have shown that confidence because the government has operated as a team. Nobody could have a better lieutenant than Doug Anthony, Deputy Prime Minister, and all the members of the team have worked with a common purpose, a common objective and a common wish. And that is to serve Australia and to overcome the very real economic problems that Australia faces.

I also believe that the extent of the vote, which could well give us the second biggest majority in Australian history, is very much attributable to the capacity of the Australian people to judge the merit of policies even though difficult decisions are involved, even though they know there are hard and unpleasant decisions that often have to be made.

And, I’d like to repeat something which I said, I think in this room, but about two years ago: that the purpose of my government is to govern for all the people of Australia no matter where they may be, what walk of life, what job they undertake, whether they’re third or fourth or fifth generation Australians or whether they’ve come here from other lands in much more recent times.

And the purpose of my government is to govern with fairness and justice for all groups and for all people, and to make sure that that fairness and justice does reach out to all people.

We still have substantial economic problems to overcome. In the three years ahead of us I have not the slightest doubt that Australians, working together will be able to overcome those particular problems.

But I also want to commit my government, with Doug Anthony, and the total Liberal National-Country Party team to another objective.

To reaching out beyond the bounds of politics to seek to emphasise those things which ought to unite all Australians in common purposes with a common objective, emphasising those matters which make Australia a great nation. Those matters in which all Australians can join each other in a common pursuit, a common purpose.

And I think if we can do that we can lessen the divisions between us, and increase the sense of national identity and the sense of common purpose.

So, finishing the task of overcoming Australia's economic problems, reaching out to that much wider objective about which I've just spoken: these are I think the two major objectives that I have set before us.

At the same time, seeking to remove areas of disadvantage in Australia, seeking to enhance individual liberty and justice for all Australians wherever they may be.

And I commit my government over the next three years to work for these objectives.

Thank You."

Source: Compiled from audio at Australian Politics Online, The Age and the Sydney Morning Herald.