

Victory Speech: John Malcolm Fraser, Prime Minister (LP)

OCTOBER 18, 1980

“I know there have been some problems along the way, but by and large I think a good deal of progress has been made.

A number of good colleagues have been lost, but in a sense I suppose that had to be expected because we had the second-largest majority ever since Federation.

There has been a very substantial victory. Even though a few seats have been lost, in this business if you are ahead, then you are ahead.

I think we all agree this is the best country in the world and it will be my objective over the next three years to seek to make it an even better one.

I would like to thank all those who worked closely with me, because it's a team effort. We will now be getting on with the job of doing the best we can for Australia.

I wouldn't say the polls were all wrong. But most of the polls were wrong. And I think you will know that I never believe them because of the certain view I have of the judgment of my fellow Australians.

I was sad to have lost those seats and I warn the people who have won them for the Labor Party to watch out, because we will be working to win them back again next time.”

Source: Compiled from The Canberra Times, October 19th 1980, page 10 and original documents.