



Reform

The Whitlam Government came to power on 2nd December 1972, becoming the first Labor Government in 23 years.

In a whirlwind of change they banned conscription, withdrew Australia's remaining troops from Vietnam, changed Australia's voting on Southern Africa questions in the UN, negotiated diplomatic relations with Communist China, introduced free tertiary education, abolished the death penalty, reduced the voting age to 18 years, ended what remained of the "White Australia Policy", made "Advance Australia Fair" the national anthem, and commissioned inquiries into schooling and Aboriginal land rights.

They were elected again on 18th May 1974 after Gough Whitlam secured a dissolution of both Houses in April 1974 after the Senate twice rejected the bills setting up Medibank - Australia's first comprehensive national health system - and the bills ensuring one vote one value in elections for the House of Representatives and introducing senators for the Territories. The Medibank and electoral bills were then passed at the first

and only joint sitting of both Houses of the Parliament.



Political and economic crises

After the 1973 oil crisis, the Whitlam government's reforms slowed as all western economies went into recession and inflation mounted.

A series of political and economic crises racked the Whitlam government throughout 1975. Unemployment was at the highest rate since the Depression. Additionally, there was a change in the leadership of the Liberal Party when Malcolm Fraser replaced Billy Snedden after his third leadership challenge.

A massive swing against Labor encouraged the opposition to force an early election when Whitlam and Fraser campaigned against each other for the first time in the Bass by-election.

The decision of the government to elevate Senator, Lionel Murphy, to the High Court, and the death of a Labor senator from Queensland left two seats vacant in the Senate.

The NSW and Queensland governments chose not to follow

customary practice, replacing two Labor senators with anti-Labor independents.

This situation created a majority in the Senate for the opposition.

This majority was used to reject the Whitlam government's budget, which had been presented to the Senate in October.

Fraser, claiming 'extraordinary and reprehensible circumstances', announced that the opposition would refuse to pass the budget bills in the Senate unless Whitlam called, 18 months early, an election for the House of Representatives.

Whitlam stood firm on the principle of the supremacy of the lower house.

As the pressure rose the likelihood increased of the government making alternative financial arrangements so as to be able to govern without the money supply.

The Middle East 'loans affair'

The press released information regarding moves by the Labor government to raise overseas loan money from the Middle East and the secret negotiations involved.

The so-called 'loans affair'

became a crucial factor in the constitutional crisis that developed when the Senate, controlled by the opposition, delayed approval of the government's money bills for 1975-76.

Dr Jim Cairns, deputy prime minister and minister for the environment, had been sacked in July for misleading parliament over his attempts to raise other government loans overseas. In October, a beleaguered Whitlam denied that his government was still involved in loan-raising activities, but evidence from a London-based intermediary, Tirath Khemlani, was produced in parliament to show that Rex Connor, minister for minerals and energy, had been continuing negotiations despite the revocation of his authority to raise such loans. Connor was also sacked.

ASIO and the CIA

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) was a domestic counter-espionage organisation created in 1949 to include Australia in the intelligence-sharing network with allied countries following the Second World War, including USA, Britain and Canada.

To print the Hooha Game:
Choose either of the buttons (below). The A3 version is separate file.
Use Acrobat reader to open, select page setup and set to size.
Select the 'fit to page' option in the print box. Print & play.



ASIO was empowered to collect and evaluate information relevant to the nation's security, and to communicate this to those deemed relevant by its director-general, who in turn reported to the attorney-general.

Relations between ASIO and the Labor party were poor. Many ALP activists knew they were subject to surveillance by ASIO, and ASIO had reported Jim Cairns as a potential threat to democratic order as a prominent anti-war activist.

In 1973 attorney-general Lionel Murphy was praised when he organised a raid of ASIO's Melbourne headquarters to seize documents he claimed ASIO had withheld from him.

ASIO chiefs were appalled as it reduced ASIO's standing as the partner of foreign intelligence agencies, including the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

(continued)

HOOHA

... The Game You never Win,
but can't lose!



Don't turn your back on other players
- throw dice, using different colored buttons
for markers to play the political game
of the year - HAPPY HOOHA...

JEFF

<p>JUNKET THROW AGAIN</p>	<p>MIDDLE EAST POLICY THROW AGAIN WITH EITHER HAND</p>	<p>BUDGET THROW AGAIN</p>	<p>PUBLIC SERVICE PAY RISE! GO BACK TO FAT CATS...</p>	<p>ROWDYISM IN THE HOUSE! SUSPENDED - MISS ONE THROW</p>	<p>JUNKET THROW AGAIN</p>	<p>INFLATION SCARING! GO BACK TO BUDGET</p>	<p>YOU ARE THE GREATEST! GO FORWARD ONE SPACE →</p>	<p>HUMBLE PIE! THROW AGAIN</p>	<p>UPVALUE THE DOLLAR FORWARD FIVE SPACES</p>
<p>WORKERS ON STRIKE MISS ONE THROW</p>	<p>STATEMENT BY VICTORIAN BRANCH GO BACK FOUR SPACES</p>	<p>OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE... FORWARD TWO SPACES →</p>	<p>HOOHA! THROW AGAIN</p>	<p>MOROSI AFFAIR MISS ONE THROW</p>	<p>CRITICISE PRESS BACK TWO SPACES</p>	<p>QUEENSLAND STATE ELECTION... BACK TO SQUARE ONE ←</p>	<p>MISLED BY TREASURY... GO BACK TO FAT CATS</p>	<p>POPULARITY DECLINE! GO BACK FIVE SPACES</p>	<p>UNEMPLOYMENT GOING UP! BACK TO BUDGET</p>
<p>DEVALUE DOLLAR FORWARD ONE SPACE</p>	<p>JUNKET THROW AGAIN</p>					<p>BUY FLEET OF HOLDENS... GO BACK 37 SPACES</p>	<p>HOOHA! THROW AGAIN</p>	<p>PILOTS' STRIKE STAY PUT ONE THROW</p>	<p>PURCHASE 'BLUE ROLES' BACK TO SQUARE ONE</p>
<p>ALL NIGHT SITTING TIRED... MISS ONE THROW</p>	<p>INSULT UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR BACK FIVE SPACES</p>	<p>RECOGNISE BALTIC STATES BACK ONE SPACE →</p>	<p>VALLEY OF DEATH GO BACK TO HOT COALS →</p>	<p>HOOHA! THROW AGAIN</p>	<p>HOT COALS JUMP UP AND DOWN AND MISS ONE THROW!</p>	<p>VISIT WHITE HOUSE FORWARD SIX SPACES</p>	<p>JUNKET THROW AGAIN</p>	<p>INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT SOARING - SACK TREASURER AND RETURN TO BUDGET →</p>	<p>PILOTS' PAY RISE BACK THREE SPACES</p>
<p>WIN ELECTION ADVANCE FOUR SPACES</p>	<p>HOOHA! THROW AGAIN</p>	<p>BARRIER REEF MISS ONE THROW</p>	<p>RESCUE MOTOR CAR MANUFACTURER MISS ONE THROW</p>	<p>SENATE FORCES ELECTION GO TO BARRIER REEF TO WRITE POLICY SPEECH</p>	<p>FAT CATS</p>	<p>PREMIERS' CONFERENCE PROMISE FINANCIAL AID TO STATES - MOVE BACK TEN SPACES</p>	<p>STOCK MARKET DEPRESSED MOVE TO BARRIER REEF TO THINK</p>	<p>GALLUP POLL SHOWS DECLINE IN POPULARITY ADDRESS THE NATION MISS ONE THROW</p>	<p>APPOINT REBEL SENATOR AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND FORWARD FIVE SPACES</p>
<p>WORKERS GET PAY RISE... BACK SIX SPACES →</p>	<p>HOOHA! THROW AGAIN</p>	<p>RAID ASIO. HQ BACK TWO SPACES</p>	<p>RAID ASIO. HQ BACK TWO SPACES</p>	<p>ASIO</p>	<p>FARMERS REVOLT MISS ONE THROW</p>	<p>PILOTS' STRIKE STAY PUT ONE THROW</p>			