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**E&OE TRANSCRIPT  
DOORSTOP INTERVIEW  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA  
WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2019**

***SUBJECT/S: John Setka; China; Consular officials are best placed to deal with consular issues.***

**JOURNALIST:** The CFMMEU is going to keep the man that the Labor Party's expelled as their leader, should you stop accepting donations from them?

**RICHARD MARLES, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY:** Look, ultimately this was a question about John Setka. It was a question about the values of the Labor Party as they relate to respect for women and in relation to domestic violence and it's because of John Setka's behaviour that Anthony Albanese took the steps that he did, within the first two weeks of his leadership. A step which was courageous but principled and made sure that values were at the heart of the Labor Party. Now, the result that we've seen today in terms of Mr Setka leaving the Labor Party is the outcome of that process. And that's a great outcome from the point of view of the party and it's a really important thing in terms of the character of Anthony Albanese and the way in which he is leading the Labor Party. What we are seeing from the government now is an attempt to throw a red herring into this- doesn't surprise me given the significance of this. But this is about John Setka, it's not about the CFMMEU and a union which obviously is a much bigger entity than one person.

**JOURNALIST:** But you are trying to separate the Party from Setka when he still represents the unions, so why continue accepting donations?

**MARLES:** John Setka's relationship to the CFMMEU is a matter for it. The one aspect that we get to control in terms of the Australian Labor Party is John Setka's relationship with the ALP and that relationship has been settled today by virtue of Mr Setka leaving.

**JOURNALIST:** So you're comfortable being linked to the Victorian CFMMEU but not Setka?

**MARLES:** Well this was always about John Setka and it was about making sure that the party made a very clear statement about the importance that we place on the value of respecting women and our complete abhorrence in respect of domestic violence. And it's in relation to all of that that the steps we're taking- by Anthony Albanese within the very first two weeks of his leadership. A difficult thing to do but a very principled stance to take and this is a very significant outcome today.

**JOURNALIST:** Given it's a principled stance, you don't think principles come into accepting money from a union that's represented by someone who holds those views on domestic violence?

**MARLES:** John Setka doesn't define the CFMMEU. This was about John Setka. And his relationship to the CFMMEU is a matter for them. But the CFMMEU is a much bigger organisation than just one person. I know that the Government is seeking to conflate it in other terms but this was always about John Setka and the view that we had that his conduct was inconsistent with the values of the ALP.

**JOURNALIST:** Liberal James Patterson says he won't make the same mistake as you when he visits China because he'll raise the plight of Yang Hengjun and the Uighurs. What's your reaction to that?

**MARLES:** Well let's see what meetings James Patterson has. Obviously I did raise the question of the Uighurs and when we're talking about consular cases it's always been my practice to seek the advice of our consular experts who look after those cases and obviously as a member of the Opposition, that's not advice to which I'm privy.

**JOURNALIST:** Are you surprised Andrew Hastie is going after his comments on China in August?

**MARLES:** Well I think what it shows that it is important for people who seek to have a

serious view about the strategic circumstances that Australia takes to learn as much as possible about our relationship with China. I mean that is to state the obvious. So, I welcome the fact that both James Patterson and Andrew Hastie are going on the China Matters tour to China.

**JOURNALIST:** Senator Patterson also says he'll make a strong statement about Australia's interests and values when it comes to the China relationship. Do you welcome that as well?

**MARLES:** I think it's obviously very important and certainly in the public statements I made in China that's exactly what I did.

***ENDS***

Authorised by Paul Erickson, ALP, Canberra.