

energy, and the fitting of the Government machine to cope more effectively with the great economic and international problems with which we must urgently concern ourselves.

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PROFESSOR GILBERT MURRAY. O.M.

On January 18, the Prime Minister announced that the Commonwealth Government, on the advice of the Historic Memorials Committee, had recently purchased in London a portrait of Professor Gilbert Murray, O.M., painted in 1954 by his grandson, Mr. Lawrence Toynbee.

The portrait has now arrived in Canberra from London.

There are apparently very few portraits of the great scholar in existence and the Government considered that the National Collection of Art Treasures should include this portrait with those of other Australians distinguished in the fields of art, literature and science.

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WATERFRONT STRIKE

On January 23, the Prime Minister said:

"Cabinet has today considered the waterfront strike which began last night. It has had before it a careful and documented statement of the various negotiations and steps which have recently occurred, including the negotiation between the parties and the proceedings before the Arbitration Court. The urgent fact is that a strike is on and that, with certain exceptions, it has brought about a cessation of work on the waterfront at a time when the vital interests of Australia can be and are most vitally affected by it.

"As a Government, we are not the judges of the merits. We have at all times strongly maintained our belief that not only in the interests of the parties but in those of the public at large, which are of paramount importance, wages and industrial conditions where the parties do not agree should be dealt with by the industrial tribunals.

"In this particular matter, waterside workers claim that their pay should be increased; shipowners claim that there are restrictive practices on the waterfront which should be abolished if the costs of transportation (so important an element in costs generally) are to be kept at a level which will enable trade to go on, ensure to the public the lowest possible level of transport cost, and facilitate the prompt and profitable conduct of export trade for Australia as a whole.

"It will be quite clear to hundreds of thousands of employees in other industries that a disastrous waterfront strike will affect their employment. Indeed, if it goes on for even a few weeks it will inevitably produce mass unemployment in other industries. It is, therefore, my duty to point out to the public generally and to those concerned in the dispute in particular three things:

1. Whatever may be the final determination, the shipowners have in fact made an offer of a wage increase and have asked for the elimination of restrictive and, therefore, wasteful practices: