

FOR PRESS :

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ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies

This afternoon the Prime Minister and a committee of Ministers held a general discussion of the economic situation with representatives of national organisations. The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, said that this had been a further meeting in the series held over the past two years under a practice which the Government intended to continue.

Today's meeting had been arranged by the Government to give Ministers an opportunity early in the year to obtain the up-to-date views of those concerned with the day-to-day workings of commerce and industry. Ministers had found the talks most useful and informative.

Representatives who attended the meeting were :

- Mr. R.V. Allison, President, Associated Chambers of
Manufactures of Australia
- Mr. L. Atkinson, President, Associated Chambers of
Commerce of Australia
- Mr. Theo Kelly, President, Australian Council of Retailers
- Mr. R.J. Abercrombie, Chairman, Australian Bankers' Association
- Mr. A.F. Havard, President, National Farmers' Union
- Mr. J.P. Heffernan, President, Australian Primary Producers'
Union
- Mr. T.L. Bull, President, Australian Woolgrowers' and
Graziers' Council
- Mr. L. Heaslip, President, Australian Wool and Meat
Producers' Federation
- Mr. W.D. Ferguson, President, Federal Chamber of Automotive
Industries
- Mr. K.G. Hooker, President, Master Builders' Federation of
Australia.

The Australian Council of Trade Unions was also invited to the meeting, but because of its other commitments, arrangements have been made for the Council to talk with Ministers on Thursday, 27th February.

Tomorrow afternoon the committee of Ministers will have further discussions on the economic situation, first with the representatives of the Manufacturing Industries Advisory Council and then with representatives of the Export Development Council.

CANBERRA,
18th February, 1964.