

FOR PRESS

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APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL LIBRARIAN

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

Mr. A. P. Fleming, O. B. E., has been appointed to the position of National Librarian.

Mr. Fleming currently holds the office of Parliamentary Librarian. Prior to taking up this appointment in 1968, Mr. Fleming was a Special Commercial Adviser, Department of Trade and Industry.

He will assume the duties of National Librarian on the retirement of Sir Harold White in June.

CANBERRA
14 May 1970

BACKGROUND NOTES:-

Mr. Fleming is aged 58 and is a Bachelor of Arts of the University of Melbourne.

Before and immediately after the war, he was a journalist with the Argus and the Courier Mail. Mr. Fleming served in the A. I. F., rising from Private in 1939 to the rank of Lt. Colonel in 1943. He was awarded the O. B. E. and twice mentioned in Despatches.

His work with the Commonwealth Public Service has included the planning and conduct of research as the first Director of the Joint Intelligence Bureau and later Controller of Joint Service organisations within the Department of Defence until 1958. Later, he was Trade Commissioner in Paris and London and First Assistant Secretary in charge of the International Trade Relations Division.

Mr. Fleming has been a member or leader of delegations to S. E. A. T. O., G. A. T. T. and United Nations conferences on trade and development.

Sir Harold White, C. B. E., has been National Librarian since 1947. When he vacated the office of Parliamentary Librarian - which he had held jointly with that of National Librarian - early in 1968, Sir Harold had been in service of the Parliament for 45 years - believed to be a record period.
