



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT No. 397
5 DECEMBER 1974

TELEGRAM TO PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Prime Minister today released the text of the telegram he sent this morning to Sir Robert Askin and the text of Sir Robert's reply to that telegram.

"On adjournment in House of Representatives last night Mr John Howard mentioned information he had received that afternoon concerning

Quote

a well-publicised appointment to the staff of the future Treasurer, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Overseas Trade (Dr J.F. Cairns). Information I subsequently received indicates that companies of which that person and her husband were directors, officers and/or shareholders are currently the subject of investigation by the New South Wales Commissioner for Corporate Affairs.

Unquote

"Please let me know whether such an investigation is being made and if so whether and how this person and her husband are implicated.

Signed E.G. Whitlam
Prime Minister"

Sir Robert's reply, which was received late this afternoon read as follows:

"Reference your telegram of today's date concerning an appointment to the staff of the Deputy Prime Minister. Am given to understand that there is some substance in what you say but matter is one for the Corporate Affairs Commission whose administration comes under the Attorney-General for New South Wales. Am seeking urgent report from him and will then send you further advice."

R. W. Askin Premier"

CANBERRA. A.C.T.