



TREASURER
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA 2600

18 DECEMBER 1974

PRESS STATEMENT

By the Acting Prime Minister, Dr J.F. Cairns

The Acting Prime Minister, Dr Cairns, this morning conferred with the Minister for Manufacturing Industry, Mr Enderby, on the proposed sackings of G.M.H. workers.

Dr Cairns said later that Mr Enderby was arranging discussions with the President of the A.C.T.U., Mr Hawke, trade unions, and the management of G.M.H.

Dr Cairns said he had received a telegram from G.M.H. managing director, Mr D. Martin, indicating that G.M.H. was available for discussions on industry problems at Dr Cairns convenience.

No time has yet been set for the conference.

Dr Cairns indicated in a press statement yesterday that he wanted a conference with the A.C.T.U. the vehicle industry unions, and all sections of the industry and G.M.H.

Today, he described as nonsense statements by Opposition spokesman that G.M.H. problems were the result of Australian Government policies. "The troubles of the motor industry are world-wide," Dr Cairns said. "They are much greater in the United States, and in Germany and Japan."

"The present Australian Government has had far closer contact with the motor industry, and has done more to understand its problems and find solutions to them than any other Government in history".

"G.M.H. acknowledged this when we produced a National Plan for the industry several weeks ago."

"In fact, they took to the media to advertise their acceptance of the Plan."

"At no time during the extensive discussions we had with them did they mention retrenchments of the order they are now foreshadowing."

"I hope that when the Government talks to G.M.H. that the company will be more co-operative than it has been in the past few days."

Canberra

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