

PRESS OFFICE TRANSCRIPTChannel 7 6.30 p.m. news broadcast.PRIME MINISTER AND MR HAWKE ON INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.Roger Climpson:

Prime Minister Fraser indicated today that the Government will take a much tougher line in future in industrial disputes. Addressing the Wool and Meat Producers Federation in Canberra, he referred to the recent move to de-register the T.W.U. during the threatened nation-wide petrol strike.

Prime Minister:

There are always discussions, and if you wait for one lot of discussions to end they will say you mustn't do it now because there are more discussions scheduled for three days time. In any case, those provisions of the law take some time to implement. In the case of de-registration maybe two or three weeks, it could be even longer. And we determined in that circumstance that we weren't going to wait for the results of any discussions, but we were going to act under the provisions of the law and of the powers available under the Commonwealth and that didn't pre-empt the results of any discussions. They can go on and hopefully achieve the result, but at the same time we believe the Australian community and many working men and women in Australia have paid too high a price for the disputes that have occurred and in this particular instance would certainly have paid a very high price indeed if the dispute had continued.

Bob Hawke:

Well one can obviously understand this beleaguered Prime Minister who on every available electoral test that arises now has been rejected by the Australian electorate, and rightly is being rejected. You can understand that he is pursuing the only path that he has ever indicated that he knows, and that is 'let's have a union bash'. I think that the Australian people, as proven in the electoral results, are heartily sick and tired of this confrontationist approach of the Prime Minister.

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