

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S 7:45 AM NEWS

In a sudden and dramatic move last night, the Minister for Finance, Mr. Robinson, resigned from the Ministry. No reason was given by Mr. Robinson or the Prime Minister. Duncan Fairweather reports Mr. Robinson's resignation came without warning: According to those close to Mr. Robinson he had become increasingly disenchanted with Mr. Fraser's leadership. They explained this was probably brought to a head when the Prime Minister apparently agreed with Mr. Bjelke Petersen on a Queensland Senate ticket favouring the National Party to which Mr. Robinson objected.

...Leader of the Opposition, MR. HAYDEN, said last night, Mr. Robinson's resignation amounted to a vote of "no confidence" in Mr. Fraser from a senior Minister. Mr. Hayden: "Mr. Robinson has resigned as a protest at the autocratic manner in which Mr. Fraser conducts the affairs of the Cabinet and of the country. Mr. Robinson is no longer prepared to be over-ridden on important matters of policy where it is his responsibility to provide advice and where the Prime Minister doesn't like it. In those circumstances it is clear Mr. Robinson feels he cannot share the collective responsibility of important decisions of the Prime Minister imposed on the Cabinet in the area of economic policy".

Chinese troops are reported to have entered a second provincial capital in their invasion of Northern Vietnam. Reports say Chinese troops stormed into town of Cao Bang yesterday and fierce fighting is going on inside the town.

The United States and three European countries have called for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss the situation in Indo-China and its impact on world peace. Soviet Union has renewed its warning to China to pull out of Vietnam before it is too late.

Federal Government has given the go-ahead for General Motors Holden to build its \$210 million engine plant in Victoria. Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mr. Lynch announced decision in Parliament last night. Has already been unfavourable reaction from the unions and the Opposition. ACTU has arranged a meeting of several vehicle industry unions in Melbourne today to discuss the plan. The Government's decision will mean changes to the local content plan. Federal Secretary of Federated Ironworkers Union, Mr. Laurie Short, said he believed the Government had acted with undue haste. GMH's Managing Director hailed the Government's decision as a milestone in the re-structuring of Australian manufacturing at large.

RepcO, biggest maker of car parts in Australia, has announced a 50 percent profit increase in six months to the end of last year.

Iran's new regime has announced it will hold a referendum within a fortnight. People will asked whether or not they want an Islamic Republic. Trouble continues in the country: reports of fighting and casualties.

There may be further Federal intervention in the Queensland Branch of the ALP. Queensland's Labor Senator, Jim Keefe, told the Party's State Conference in Rockhampton he has filed six charges against the branch with the Party's Federal Executive. The charges allege the Queensland branch broke Labor Party rules when it stripped the Federal Leader, Mr. Hayden, of his right to appoint Senator Georges as his stand-in in the ALP's Queensland Administrative Committee.

ASEAN countries have decided that negotiations with Australia on their air fares dispute will be held on a collective and not a bilateral basis. Was agreed at the ASEAN economic minister's meeting which ended in Kuala Lumpur early this morning.

Federal Government is looking at ways to employ more handicapped people in Government departments. In Senate yesterday, Senator Carrick said Telecom had adopted a policy of employing disadvantaged persons and he hoped other Commonwealth bodies would follow suit.

Commercial Bank of Australia has declared a profit of \$18 1/2 for the six months to December last year. Is up nearly 40 percent on same period in 1977.

Carribean island of St. Lucia has become independent.

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