

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S "A.M."

After surviving the rigours of the Queensland electoral redistribution affair, Federal Minister for Finance, Mr. Eric Robinson, stunned Parliament last night by resigning. No reasons have been given. It is understood Mr. Robinson told Party colleagues he could no longer give the Prime Minister his unqualified support. Report from Geoff Duncan: "Behind the scenes all has not been well and the Fraser-Robinson relationship has deteriorated to its present finale. According to his supporters, Mr. Robinson felt that he had been shabbily treated by the Prime Minister when some 6 months ago he was hauled before the MacGregor Royal Commission to answer allegations of electoral boundary rigging. Further conflict developed over the role Mr. Robinson's Department of Finance was to play in giving alternative economic advice to Mr. Fraser. I understand that Mr. Robinson felt frustrated and out-manoeuvred by the seeming dominance of the Treasury and the Prime Minister's Department...the crunch seems to have come when Mr. Robinson got wind that Mr. Fraser had done a deal with the National Party in Queensland which would ensure them Senate preference in the next election..."

Sir William McMahon said he was not surprised at Mr. Robinson's resignation and that all backbench sympathy would be with Mr. Robinson. Sir William McMahon interviewed.

Fighting is continuing on China-Vietnam border. Reported the Vietnamese are using American technology and American propaganda techniques. For the first time since the outbreak of fighting between China and Vietnam began, their representatives are being drawn into diplomatic dialogue aimed at ending the conflict, likely to start tomorrow in the Security Council of the U.N.

Federal Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mr. Lynch, last night announced the Government has accepted General Motors terms for establishing a \$210 million engine plant in Victoria. Federal Opposition has mixed feelings about the plan. Labor Spokesman on Business and Consumer Affairs, Mr. Hurford, interviewed. Said he opposed the details of the decision but supports what motivated the decisions. N.S.W. Secretary of the Vehicle Worker's Union believes the decision is not only likely to cause unemployment but also to deprive Australia of irreplaceable mechanical skills. Interviewed.

Britain's civil servants are to go on strike in a few hours time. 24-hour walk-out will affect a wide variety of services. The British Prime Minister is adamant that he won't yield to pressure.

France: steel workers facing redundancy are staging large scale demonstrations by occupying railway stations.

Strikes in industrial disputes in Spain have come at critical time with the country going to the polls in one week.

Western Australia: State ALP member, Keith Wilson, has rejected a 9 percent wage rise.