

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S 7:00 PM TELEVISION NEWS

In major statement to Parliament today, the Prime Minister expressed the Government's concern that the fighting in Vietnam might spread. Mr. Fraser said although China had indicated it would act with prudence, there must be no underestimation of the serious danger posed to the region and the world by the present conflict. Mr. Fraser interviewed.

The Leader of the Opposition gave his view of the Government's response to the situation in Indo-China. Mr. Hayden interviewed.

Because of the situation in Indo-China, the visit of a high-ranking Chinese leader to Australia next month has been postponed. A Vice-Premier will not be able to come to Australia.

Health workers at a rally in Sydney today called for a total and indefinite strike from Monday unless the Government drops its proposed health service cuts.

In his wide-ranging speech to Parliament today, the Prime Minister said he believed that the Government's economic policies would bear fruit in 1979. In his speech Mr. Fraser reviewed developments overseas and within Australia and spoke of a growing mood of optimism about Australia's economic prospects.

Mr. Hayden said Mr. Fraser's speech was "a tour de farce" rather than a "tour de force". Mr. Hayden said there were three main issues in Australia today: the Prime Minister's credibility; Mr. Fraser's deficiencies in economic management and the Government's harsh neglect of social problems.

As the Prime Minister was on his feet today in Federal Parliament talking optimistically about the economy, figures were released showing food prices had soared during January. Food group index went up by an average of 2 percent in Australia's seven capital cities.

Was claimed by the Federal Opposition today that there had been an alarming growth in overseas travel by Government ministers. Mr. Peter Morris, Opposition Transport Spokesman, said in Parliament Ministers flitted out of the country at the rate of one every 20 days. Said the Prime Minister had been averaging one overseas trip every 10 weeks in the past three years.

Students at a number of Melbourne schools are being used as tutors and are often being paid to help other younger students. Education departments in N.S.W. and Tasmania have shown interest in the scheme.

The State Government (NSW) today announced establishment of two large national parks in Southern N.S.W.

One million Australians a year are using legal aid. Chairman of Legal Aid Commission said he would like to see more people using the service.

A former President of the American Society of Criminology believes penalties in Australia for white collar crimes are inadequate.

Singapore has renewed its attack on Australia's cheap air fares scheme at meeting of the five ASEAN nations in Kuala Lumpur.

An American cyclone research team this afternoon left Townsville for a second monitoring mission on Cylone Kerry.

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