

from the Press Office

Summary of "P.M."

The President of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, Sir John Moore, is seeking a meeting with Mr Street to discuss the Government's changes to the Conciliation and Arbitration Act. It appears that the main concern, which came out of a meeting today between Sir John, senior presidential members of the Commission, and the Commissioners Association Executive, centres on the consultative provisions of the new legislation. It now seems that the Commissioners objections are based on a belief that this provision will slow down proceedings, discourage trade unions from bringing industrial disputes before the Commission, and create new and unnecessary legal technicalities. They believe that such consultative provisions conflict with the objects of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

Mr Street was accused today by Lionel Bowen of misleading the Parliament on the circumstances leading up to the release by his Department of Mr Justice Staples letter, which sparked off today's meeting of the Arbitration Commissioners. Mr Street was closely questioned during Question Time on statements he made on "P.M." last night. Report on this afternoon's events in Parliament.

The Australian Government and the Japanese Government today signed the first bilateral fishing agreement between the two countries, despite widespread opposition from game fishermen in North Queensland and N.S.W., who say that the Japanese long-line operators will wipe out the black Marlin in waters off the Queensland coast. The Minister for Transport and Primary Industry, Mr. Nixon, met with representatives of the Game Fishing Association last night. But as he told Parliament today, he was not able to delay the signing of the agreement. Mr. Nixon has assured the fishermen that proper monitoring controls will be enforced and that he will ask permission from Cabinet to go to Japan to ask the Japanese to use voluntary restraint. Mr. Nixon interviewed.

The Marlin controversy in Queensland has led to an unexpected move by the Queensland Premier, Mr. Bjelke Petersen, to bring to the attention of the Commissioner for Community Relations, Al Grassby, comments made by the ALP member for Cairns, Mr. Ray Jones, which Mr. Bjelke Petersen says are racist. Mr. Jones is against the agreement to allow the Japanese to fish in North Queensland waters and says the only reason the Federal Government is allowing the Japanese is to protect their major trading agreements. Mr. Bjelke Petersen in Parliament said today that Mr. Jones' statement could damage the livelihood of North Queensland because the economy of the region depended heavily on exports of beef and sugar to Japan. Mr. Ray Jones interviewed.

Three Adelaide academics have accused the Federal Government of silent collaboration with the Indonesian Government over the delay in distributing Australian aid to East Timor. About \$200,000 worth of aid in the form of vegetable oil and high protein biscuits was authorised by the Government six weeks ago, but it is yet to reach the East Timorese. The Government has admitted the delay which a spokesman for the group, Lecturer in Politics at Adelaide University, Mr. Pat Flanagan, says is the latest scandal in the East Timor affair: interviewed.

Returning to comments made by Mr. Ray Jones, ALP Member for Cairns, in the Queensland Parliament about the Australia-Japan fishing agreement and allegations that the Federal Government may have bowed to pressure to preserve our beef and sugar sales to Japan.-- Queensland Premier, Mr. Bjelke Petersen interviewed.

Some children in Sydney are spending up to \$6.00 a day on pinball machines, according to the N.S.W. Minister for Consumer Affairs, Mr. Einfield. The Minister told State Parliament he was disturbed about where the children were getting the money and about the possibility that undesirable people were running pinball parlours: interviewed.