



PRIME MINISTER

E. & O.E. - PROOF ONLY

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE, 24 SEPTEMBER 1985, BRISBANE SHERATON

JOURNALIST: ... you insist on Dr Armstrong's resignation?

PM: I have nothing to say about that at this stage. All I have to say about current circumstances is that I spoke to Mr Reid today at his request on the phone in Townsville. I will be seeing him on Thursday in Canberra. I have nothing to add.

JOURNALIST: Do you have confidence in Mr Reid still as Chairman of the Authority?

PM: That's not fair, Michelle, at this stage. I have answered that question before in the very precise terms that I will be talking with Mr Reid.

JOURNALIST: Can you reiterate ...

PM: Can you let me finish the answer the answer, please. I will be seeing him on Thursday. It is quite unfair to him, to me, and to everyone involved to say anything on that question until I discuss it with him.

JOURNALIST: Mr Reid doesn't seem to know quite why Dr Armstrong should have gone. He seemed to be in two minds. He wasn't sure whether Dr Armstrong - why you had insisted that he go.

PM: If you have got any doubts about what Mr Reid is saying, you should be addressing your questions to Mr Reid.

JOURNALIST: INAUDIBLE Is that your expectation?

PM: I'm not going to go to that issue. I will be quite prepared to talk after I've seen Mr Reid.

JOURNALIST: What did Mr Reid say?

PM: Mr Reid just conveyed to me the decision about the Board ... had expressed confidence in him and his handling of this matter and confirmed that he will be meeting with me on Thursday.

JOURNALIST: Mr Reid was quite precise. He said he didn't know why Dr Armstrong resigned.

PM: Did he?

JOURNALIST: Yes.

PM: That's interesting.

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JOURNALIST: What's your response?

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, did Mr Reid inform you that there was no tax minimisation involved in Dr Armstrong's resignation?

PM: When I raised this question he expressed confidence in the matter of tax. In that context I said I still want to have something in writing from you and Mr Reid confirmed to me today that either before I see him on Thursday or certainly by Thursday he will have a full answer in writing on this matter. Again, it is not appropriate to talk about that until I get that from him.

JOURNALIST: Do you think, Prime Minister, that the meeting on Thursday will clear this up?

...

PM: Well, I would trust that the response that Mr Reid gives to me, ... inaudible ... I hope that that will clear that matter up.

JOURNALIST: He said the tax ... had nothing to do with the Authority, though. It is a matter between Dr Armstrong ...

PM: On the question of tax, Michelle, I simply repeat what I have said. I am not making any further comment on that. It is not fair to Mr Reid to make any further comment on that matter until I receive his letter. Now, I will be able to talk to you after Thursday.

JOURNALIST: Are you pleased that the Board backed Mr Reid today?

PM: I am pleased that they discussed the matter and they have confidence in what he has done. Of course I am happy about that.
