



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

12 FEBRUARY, 1987

Senator Don Grimes, Minister for Community Services, has tendered his resignation from the Ministry. I, as will all his colleagues, greatly regret his resignation. His contribution to the Government has been very great indeed and he has brought distinction to the various areas with which he has been associated.

Senator Grimes' resignation will take effect from the time of the swearing in of a successor following the Caucus meeting on Monday afternoon.

Senator Grimes was Minister for Social Security in my first Ministry. Since the 1984 election he has been the Minister for Community Services. He also held the important positions of Deputy Leader in the Senate and Manager of Government Business for that Chamber.

Senator Grimes entered the Parliament in 1974 as Senator for Tasmania. By 1976, he was a member of the Opposition Shadow Ministry where he was a principal architect of the ALP's social security policies.

In all the positions he held, Senator Grimes has been a valued colleague. He brought to his Ministerial and Cabinet duties not only technical expertise from his background as a medical practitioner but also a breadth of knowledge and perspective from the wide diversity of his interests. In both his Senate and Ministerial positions, he combined both robustness in debate with the ability to negotiate and conciliate. These attributes had earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and indeed all those with whom he had contact.

Senator Grimes had a longstanding association with the Socialist International, where he demonstrated his commitment to Parliamentary democracy, and the principles of equality, liberty and social co-operation, objectives for which the Australian Labor Party stands.

Senator Grimes will remain in the Senate for a short period, before taking up a senior Government position.