

PRESS RELEASE

NOT TO BE RELEASED BEFORE 3AM
WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION CONFERENCE
OXFORD, ENGLAND - 15TH-29TH JULY,
1959
(STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER)

The United Kingdom Government released the following statement this morning :-

"All the Governments of the Commonwealth have now accepted an invitation from the United Kingdom Government to attend a Commonwealth Education Conference in Oxford from the 15th to 29th July. The principal Colonial territories will also send representatives. Delegations will be composed of officials and representatives of educational interests including the universities.

Lord Halifax Chancellor of the University of Oxford will be President of the Conference and Sir Philip Morris Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University will be Chairman.

The United Kingdom Government have invited delegates to spend the week before the Conference visiting educational establishments in the United Kingdom. They will be guests of the United Kingdom Government for the whole period of three weeks.

This Conference stems from a decision of the Commonwealth Ministers at the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference held at Montreal in September 1958 that a meeting should be convened by the United Kingdom during 1959 to formulate a new programme of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships and to review the existing arrangements for co-operation between Commonwealth countries on all aspects of education.

Prime Minister's Comment:

Mr. Menzies, in commenting on this announcement, confirmed that Australia has accepted the invitation of the United Kingdom Government to send a delegation to the Education Conference in Oxford next July. He added that the composition of the delegation is now being discussed with State Premiers and various interested authorities.

STRICT EMBARGO. Not for publication, broadcasting or cabling
before 1_a.m. E.S.T., Wednesday, 25th March, 1959.

NO. 9/1959

CABINET DISCUSSION ON PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES REPORT

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Ministers have today considered and discussed the report on salaries and allowances of Members of the Commonwealth Parliament, made by Sir Frank Richardson, Mr. G.E. Fitzgerald and Mr. N.L. Cowper.

After an elaborate discussion, we have decided to adopt the recommendations of the report without amendment, and will introduce legislation accordingly.

As we are anxious that the Report should be carefully considered as a whole, since it provides a great deal of important material, I do not propose to make any long comment upon it. I say this because I hope that everybody interested will obtain a full copy of the Report and study it. But four particular matters deserve mention:

1. There is sometimes a complaint that Members of Parliament "fix their own pay". The fact is that they are bound to do so under the Constitution which provides Parliamentary Allowances on a certain scale "until the Parliament otherwise provides". As the Committee says: "It was, therefore, clearly contemplated that the remuneration of Members could be altered from time to time, and it was laid down that any alteration should be made by Parliament itself".

My own Government has introduced, for the third time now, the practice of referring the problem for independent advice by an outside committee, making its report after investigation from Parliamentary and non-Parliamentary sources.

2. We have stated our policy that a review of these matters should be made early in the life of each new Parliament and that, subject only to quite abnormal circumstances, the conditions then determined should apply unchanged throughout the life of the Parliament. This, we believe, is a sensible provision.
3. The 1951 Committee covered the whole field, including the salaries and allowances of Ministers. The 1955 Committee was specifically asked not to deal with the salaries and allowances of Ministers, or of Parliamentary office-bearers, or of retiring allowances. The position is, therefore, that these matters have remained untouched and unconsidered for over 7 years.
4. In view of constant misrepresentation, I should again point out that the so-called "allowances" paid to Ministers and private Members do not form in the ordinary acceptation of the term, part of their salary. They represent amounts which, if paid out by way of political expenses, are then deductible. Nobody dreams of adding to the salary of some business executive the amount of expenses which he incurs in the business of his company. Yet it has not been uncommon to find some commentators adding to the salary of a Minister or Member an allowance for political expenses which represents no nett gain to himself. This is a matter which I urge people to keep in mind when considering this important document.

1. List of members of the committee
2. Report of the committee
3. Minutes of the meetings
4. Correspondence
5. Other documents

6. Financial statements
7. Inventory of the committee's assets
8. List of the committee's liabilities
9. List of the committee's income
10. List of the committee's expenses

11. List of the committee's members
12. List of the committee's officers
13. List of the committee's staff
14. List of the committee's advisors

15. List of the committee's consultants
16. List of the committee's contractors
17. List of the committee's vendors
18. List of the committee's suppliers

19. List of the committee's subcontractors
20. List of the committee's subcontractors
21. List of the committee's subcontractors
22. List of the committee's subcontractors

23. List of the committee's subcontractors
24. List of the committee's subcontractors
25. List of the committee's subcontractors
26. List of the committee's subcontractors

27. List of the committee's subcontractors
28. List of the committee's subcontractors
29. List of the committee's subcontractors
30. List of the committee's subcontractors

31. List of the committee's subcontractors
32. List of the committee's subcontractors
33. List of the committee's subcontractors
34. List of the committee's subcontractors

35. List of the committee's subcontractors
36. List of the committee's subcontractors
37. List of the committee's subcontractors
38. List of the committee's subcontractors

39. List of the committee's subcontractors
40. List of the committee's subcontractors
41. List of the committee's subcontractors
42. List of the committee's subcontractors

43. List of the committee's subcontractors
44. List of the committee's subcontractors
45. List of the committee's subcontractors
46. List of the committee's subcontractors

47. List of the committee's subcontractors
48. List of the committee's subcontractors
49. List of the committee's subcontractors
50. List of the committee's subcontractors

The Report sets out in close detail the nature of the expenditure of a non-private kind which a Member of Parliament is bound under modern circumstances to incur. I would, therefore, urge that the closest attention should be given to the reasoning of the Report. I am sure that, if it is carefully considered, the general public feeling would be that what has been recommended pays proper attention to the labours and responsibilities of Members of Parliament and their wives, and will help to give effect to the Committee's view that, while the emoluments of Members of Parliament should not be extravagant, they should be of such a kind as not to deter able men from entering the Parliamentary service of the nation.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.
24th March, 1959.