

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER, MR. R.G. MENZIES

POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

The Prime Minister, Mr Menzies, announced today that the chairman of the Public Service Board, Sir William Dunk, had informed the Government that he wished to retire from the position of chairman early in 1961. Mr. Menzies emphasised that Sir William had taken this step in order to assist the Government in arranging the succession to this important public service office.

The Government has decided to appoint Mr F.H. Wheeler, O.B.E., who is at present a Director of the International Labour Organisation at Geneva. Before taking this appointment in 1953, Mr. Wheeler was First Assistant Secretary in the Department of the Treasury and one of the key Treasury advisers to the Government through the War and in the Post-War period. His experience with I.L.O. will be valuable in the personnel administration field of the Public Service Board's work. The appointment will date from January 1st, 1961.

Sir William Dunk, who will be 62 years of age this year, joined the Public Service in 1914 and has had a distinguished and varied public service career, including highly responsible work in War Administration as Assistant Secretary in the Treasury and Director of Reciprocal Lend Lease. Immediately after the war he was appointed as head of the Department of External Affairs, where he laid the administration foundations for the Post-War work of the Department. He accepted his present appointment in 1947 and has given outstanding service in gearing the public service to its greatly expanded Post-War tasks and in adopting a modern approach to the management problems of the service.

Mr. Menzies said that Sir William's departure from his present office would be a severe loss but his characteristically public spirited attitude to the future of the service was keenly appreciated by the Government. He had offered to make himself available to the Board for assistance and consultation during the early period of the new Chairman's appointment.

Canberra, 11th October, 1959.