P.M. No. 39/1959

UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION REPORT

REPLY BY THE PRIME MINISTER, RT. HON. R.G. MENZIES

The Prime Minister to-day replied to criticism by the Premier of Victoria of his action in releasing the report of the Universities Commission on Monash University.

Mr. Menzies said that, acting on his instructions, his Private Secretary, Mr. W. Heseltine, spoke to the Secretary of the Victorian Premier's Department at about 2.15 on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Heseltine told Sir John Jungwirth that it was the Prime Minister's intention, if the Premier saw no objection, to release the report to the press on Wednesday afternoon. Sir John said he was sure the Premier would have no objection.

Mr. Heseltine said "In that case we will arrange for the release of the report", and Sir John said "Yes, that will be all right."

The report was released to the press by the Prine Minister's Press Secretary about 3 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon.

Canberra, 15th October, 1959.