

PUBLIC SERVICE APPOINTMENTS

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) announced today that the Government had made appointments to three senior positions in the Commonwealth Public Service which will become vacant shortly.

Mr. J.E. Collings has been appointed a Commissioner of the Public Service Board to succeed Mr. G.G. Sutcliffe, C.B.E., who retires early next year.

Mr. Collings, aged 44, is at present an Assistant Commissioner on the Public Service Board's staff. His experience includes a period as Private Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and Minister for the Interior, service in the Trade and Customs Department, and in the Department of External Affairs. He was first appointed to the Public Service Board's staff in 1947 and received his present appointment as Assistant Commissioner in 1953. He holds the qualifications of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce.

Dr. W.A. Westerman, O.B.E., has been appointed to succeed Sir John Crawford, C.B.E., as Secretary, Department of Trade, when Sir John relinquishes his present appointment to take an appointment with the Australian National University. Dr. Westerman joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1946 and served as Assistant Trade Commissioner, New York, until his appointment to the Public Service in 1950. He received promotion to First Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce and Agriculture, in 1954, and Deputy Secretary, Department of Trade, in 1956. He is now Chairman of the Tariff Board.

The Government has appointed Mr. G.A. Rattigan to succeed Mr. F.A. Meere, C.B.E., as Comptroller-General of Customs when Mr. Meere retires in July, 1960.

Mr. Rattigan, at present First Assistant Secretary of the Department of Trade, was Assistant Comptroller-General of Customs when the Department of Trade was formed in 1955. He is 48 years of age and was first appointed to the Public Service in 1925. He transferred to the Customs Department in 1934 and was on war service during 1942/1944.

In announcing these appointments the Prime Minister paid his own tribute and that of the Government to the distinguished public service given by Sir John Crawford, Mr. Meere and Mr. Sutcliffe over a long period. Each of them had played a significant part in the post-war development of the Public Service and had contributed to the high standing in which the Public Service is held throughout Australia and overseas.

Canberra,
26th November, 1959.