

NEW MINISTER

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies

Senator Paltridge has resigned from the post of Minister for Shipping and Transport and Mr. Opperman has been appointed in his place.

I have for some time been conscious of the fact that Senator Paltridge has been grossly overburdened by having to attend to both Civil Aviation and Shipping and Transport. His successful work in relation to shipping has been quite outstanding and we are all indebted to him for it. But the problems of civil aviation are becoming more and more complex, involving as they do most difficult questions in relation to internal air services and facilities, and constant negotiations in relation to international airlines. The change now announced will enable Senator Paltridge to concentrate his notable abilities upon these matters.

Mr. H.G. Pearce, M.P., will become Government Whip, in succession to Mr. Opperman.

CANBERRA,  
5th February, 1960.