

NEW AUDITOR-GENERAL FOR THE COMMONWEALTHStatement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. R.G. Menzies

The Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, announced today the appointment of Mr. V.J.W. Skermer, O.B.E., as Auditor-General for the Commonwealth. He succeeds Mr. H.C. Newman, C.B.E., who retires this week-end.

Mr. Menzies said that Mr. Skermer, was a highly experienced audit official, who had occupied a number of senior positions in the Commonwealth Audit Office. Since 1951, Mr. Skermer has been Secretary and Chief Inspector of the Audit Office and, in that position, has been deputy to the Auditor-General. He has acted as Auditor-General for the Commonwealth on a number of occasions during the absence of the Auditor-General.

Mr. Skermer, who is 53, was awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year Honours List for 1961 for his distinguished public service.

Mr. Newman, whom Mr. Skermer replaces, has been Auditor-General since 1955. He retires after a career in the Commonwealth Public Service extending over more than fifty years.

Referring to Mr. Newman's retirement, the Prime Minister expressed high praise for his work as Auditor-General. Mr. Menzies said that Mr. Newman had served the Commonwealth with great distinction throughout his long Public Service career.

Mr. Newman was awarded the O.B.E. in 1954 and, in the 1960 New Year Honours List, was promoted to Commander of the British Empire.

CANBERRA,

4th June, 1961.