

FOR PRESS :

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INDUSTRY CONSULTATIONS

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies

The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, and a group of Cabinet Ministers today met representatives of Australian manufacturing, commercial, banking and primary producers' organisations to hear their views on trends in the domestic economy and to obtain a first-hand account of current and prospective developments in various sectors of the economy. This meeting was the fourth in a series of discussions with industry leaders over the past eighteen months.

The industry representatives present were :-

- Mr. T.M. Ramsay, President, Associated Chambers of Manufactures of Australia.
- Mr. L.F. Atkinson, President, Associated Chambers of Commerce in Australia
- Mr. Theo Kelly, President, Australian Council of Retailers
- Mr. R. J. Abercrombie, Chairman, Australian Bankers' Association.
- Mr. R. J. McAuley, representing the National Farmers' Union of Australia.
- Mr. T.L. Bull, President, Australian Woolgrowers' and Graziers' Federation.
- Mr. L. Heaslip, President, Australian Wool and Meat Producers' Federation.
- Mr. A.A. Dawson, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Primary Producers' Federation.
- Mr. A.V. Jennings, Past President, Master Builders' Federation of Australia.
- Mr. W.D. Ferguson, President, Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries

The Australian Council of Trade Unions was not able to be represented but, with the Government's concurrence, it arranged to submit to the Prime Minister a written statement of its views for consideration by the Government.

After the meeting the Prime Minister said that Ministers had been most anxious to have the up-to-date views of these national organisations before they took up consideration of the 1963/64 Budget. He added that the talks had been valuable and would assist Ministers in their Budget deliberations.

Tomorrow morning, Ministers will meet representatives of the Manufacturing Industries Advisory Council and the Export Development Council.

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CANBERRA,

15th July, 1963.