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DEATH OF SIR JOHN LATHAM

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

Sir John Latham was one of the outstanding Australians of our time and he will not easily be forgotten. He gave a lifelong example of what could be done by a man of lofty and tenacious character whose devotion to duty was always backed by uncommon abilities and unflagging energy. It was my good fortune to be a law student under him and thereafter his junior and opponent at the Bar and his successor in Kooyong and in the Commonwealth Attorney-Generalship.

I had good reason to know him well. To know him well was to understand the full nature of his contribution to our life as a nation and the deep springs from which that contribution came.

CANBERRA,
25th July, 1964.

The Prime Minister said that under normal circumstances Sir John Latham would have been accorded a State Funeral by the Commonwealth Government. However, some time ago Sir John made it known that this would be against his wishes, and this has since been confirmed by Sir John's family.

The Prime Minister said instructions were being issued that flags on Commonwealth buildings throughout Australia should be at half-mast from sunrise to sunset on the day of the funeral, Tuesday 28th July.