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RETIREMENT FROM THE SENATE BY SENATOR
SIR WILLIAM SPOONER, KCMG, MM

The following is an exchange of letters today between the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies and Sir William Spooner :-

"My dear Prime Minister,

I refer to the various discussions we have had since I resigned from the Cabinet concerning my position in the Senate.

At these discussions I expressed the view that when the time was opportune, I would like to retire from the Senate and you have been good enough to understand my desire to do this.

For my part, I think it logical that having retired from the Cabinet, I should make way for someone else with a political future to have the opportunity to obtain the benefits of that training and experience in the Parliament which is necessary in politics.

Naturally I regret leaving political life which has been so interesting and where I have made so many friends. I take pride in the fact that I know that the long personal friendship which you and I have enjoyed will continue.

As you can imagine, I have given the matter a lot of thought. As a result, I am quite firm in my own personal desire to retire altogether from politics. That indeed, this being so, I feel it is proper that I should.

I hope that you will not see any difficulties in the way of my now doing that which I would like to do.

Yours sincerely,

W. H. SPOONER

"My dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter of today. I fully understand and respect the reasons which have led you to your decision to retire from the Senate. I share your regret at leaving political life and I warmly reciprocate your references to the long friendship which you and I have both politically and personally enjoyed.

You can look back with pride on the work which you have done for our country over so many years. No man could have devoted his talents to public service with greater fidelity and zeal. I have greatly admired your immense capacity for work and the thoroughness with which you have examined and directed the affairs of your various Departments.

I will greatly miss my constant contact with you. Indeed your departure from the legislative scene leaves me with a genuine sense of loss. However your reasons for your decision do you great honour.

I do not know who will succeed you but he will certainly inherit from you a great tradition and a fine example.

With my warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

R. G. MENZIES.

CANBERRA,
14th July, 1965.