

FOR PRESS :

P.M. No. 21/1966

ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

Members of the Economic Committee of Cabinet have conducted a series of discussions in the course of the day with representatives of official advisory bodies and with a group of national organisations representing industry and commerce. There were separate meetings this morning with the Manufacturing Industries Advisory Council and the Export Development Council. This afternoon, the talks continued with the group of national organisations which comprised:

Associated Chambers of Manufactures of Australia
Associated Chambers of Commerce of Australia
National Farmers' Union of Australia
Australian Primary Producers' Union
Australian Wool Growers' and Graziers' Council
Australian Wool and Meat Producers' Federation
Australian Bankers' Association
Master Builders' Federation of Australia
Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries
Australian Council of Retailers.

Members of all these bodies expressed appreciation that the new Government was continuing the practice of holding talks of this kind at half yearly intervals. It was agreed that the talks had been found of great value to the Government, and also to industry and commerce. The Prime Minister said the talks were most timely, as Cabinet would be proceeding tomorrow to consideration of a number of papers prepared by the Treasury and other Departments, relating to the present state of the economy. The Government would be greatly assisted in these by having as background the material supplied to it by the organisations which had participated in its discussions today.

The Government will be meeting representatives of the Australian Council of Trade Unions on Thursday, 10th March.

CANBERRA,
1st March, 1966