

DECENTRALISATION

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

Commonwealth and State officials met in Canberra today to discuss progress made in the work of a technical sub-committee of the Commonwealth/State Officials' Committee on Decentralisation.

The representatives of the States at the Conference were:

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| New South Wales | - Mr. W. A. Butterfield,
Director,
Department of Decentralisation and
Development |
| | - Mr. J. Davies, Treasury. |
| Victoria | - Mr. N. T. Howard,
Director,
Division of State Development,
Premier's Department. |
| Queensland | - Sir James Holt ,
Co-ordinator-General of Public Works |
| South Australia | - Mr. E. J. Carey,
Assistant Under-Treasurer,
Treasury Department. |
| | - Mr. K. C. Belchamber,
Industries Promotions and Research
Officer,
Premier's Department |
| Western Australia | - Mr. G. Cooper,
Director,
Department of Industrial Development. |
| | - Mr. R. F. Boylen ,
Department of Industrial Development |
| Tasmania | - Mr. J. E. Henshelwood,
Director,
Industrial Development Branch,
Premier's and Chief Secretary's Department |

The Commonwealth Departments participating were Treasury, Trade and Industry, National Development, Labour and National Service, Primary Industry and Prime Minister's Department.

While much useful work has been done to clarify many of the important issues involved in a subject as complex as decentralisation, the officials agreed that it would be necessary to collect and analyse further information before conclusions of value could be reached. These steps are now being taken.