

FOR PRESS :

PM. No. 34/1967

COMMONWEALTH-STATE FINANCIAL RELATIONS :
STATES' ATTITUDE

At the close of today's Premiers' Conference, the Premier of New South Wales, Mr. Askin, made the following comment :-

"Mr. Prime Minister, before we leave, I should like to express our gratitude for what has been approved.

"I am sure we all appreciate the friendly and considerate atmosphere that has been engendered by both yourself and the Commonwealth Treasurer. This has made our work much easier.

"The short-term solution that has been put forward will prove to be very helpful to all the States. I include the bringing forward of the assessment date to 31st March. The big question, as we all know, revolves around what will come from the long-term considerations.

"It is encouraging to the Premiers to note that the Commonwealth has indicated that it is prepared to look at the long-term possibilities and has even invited us to make submissions on the matter.

"We can only hope that in June the merits of our proposals will receive the consideration that has been foreshadowed. If our proposals are considered on their merits, we cannot ask for any more."

CANBERRA,
16th February, 1967.