

EMBARGO: NOT TO BE RELEASED BEFORE 6 P.M. (EST) ON 16/10/67.

FOR PRESS:



P.M. No. 106/1967

MINISTERIAL CHANGES

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

The Minister for Primary Industry, Mr. Adermann, has asked to be relieved of his duties as Minister for Primary Industry as from today. His resignation has been accepted by the Governor-General.

Mr. J. D. Anthony, up till now the Minister for the Interior, has been appointed to the Primary Industry portfolio and Mr. P. J. Nixon, the Member for Gippsland, has been appointed to the Ministry and will take over from Mr. Anthony as Minister for the Interior. The two Ministers were sworn in their new offices by the Governor-General this afternoon.

It is a matter of deep regret to me and my colleagues in the Cabinet that Mr. Adermann has felt it necessary to resign to ease his load of work. We have all respected the able manner in which he has discharged the duties of a difficult portfolio for so many years. I know that this high opinion of his work is widely held, and nowhere more strongly than in those primary industries for whose prosperity and welfare he has worked so devotedly.

Mr. Anthony comes to the Primary Industry portfolio with a wealth of knowledge of the land and its problems.

I have invited Mr. Sinclair to become a member of the Cabinet and he will continue administration of his portfolio of Social Services in which appointment he has shown great ability.

Mr. Nixon's promotion is well earned, and he will be a welcome addition to the Ministry.

I announce also a change in the Leadership of the Government in the Senate.

Senator Henty, who had previously announced his decision to retire from the Senate at the expiry of his current term, wrote to me recently saying that in the circumstances he thought a change should be made in the leadership in order that the Government Senate Leader in the forthcoming election campaign might have continuity of office.

Senator Gorton, at my request, has agreed to assume responsibility as Government Leader in the Senate.

I would like publicly, as I have done privately, to thank Senator Henty for the able and devoted service he has given the Government through his years of leadership in the Senate. I have asked him to continue as a member of the Cabinet in his present portfolio.

CANBERRA
16th October, 1967.