

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER,
THE RT. HON. HAROLD HOLT IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

19TH OCTOBER, 1967

APPOINTMENTS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIAN
AND PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIAN

From 1st January, 1968, the two positions of National Librarian and Parliamentary Librarian, which to date have been vested in the one office, will be separated in recognition of the development of the two libraries and the completion of the new National Library building next year.

Mr. H. L. White, C.B.E., who has performed the dual functions since 1947, will occupy the newly created statutory office of National Librarian and, by virtue of this appointment, will vacate the office of Parliamentary Librarian.

On the recommendation of the presiding officers of the Parliament, Mr. A. P. Fleming, O.B.E., Special Commercial Adviser, Department of Trade and Industry, who is at present stationed in London, will be promoted as Parliamentary Librarian with the particular responsibility of developing the recently established Legislative Research Service for the Parliament.

The appointment of Mr. White and the promotion of Mr. Fleming follow an amendment to the National Library Act earlier this year. This will assist the separation of the functions of the two libraries. While it might be somewhat overstating it to describe this separation as something of a milestone in Parliamentary and national history, there is no doubt it is of great importance because it marks a point in our development where we have found two separate institutions to be necessary.

Perhaps the House would allow me to mention briefly the Mr. White, who will assume the post of National Librarian, has since 1947 held with distinction both that post and the post of Parliamentary Librarian. He has actually been in the service of the Parliament for 45 years - a longer period, I understand, than anyone else. We wish him success in his new and important office.

ALLAN P. FLEMING, O.B.E.

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIAN ELECT

Mr. Fleming is aged 55 and is a Bachelor of Arts of Melbourne University.

Before and immediately after the war he was a journalist with the Argus and the Courier Mail. Mr. Fleming served in the A.I.F., rising from Private in 1939 to the rank of Lt. Colonel in 1943. He held several appointments, the last being General Staff Officer I (Operations, Land Headquarters). He was awarded the O.B.E. and twice mentioned in Despatches.

His work with the Commonwealth Public Service since the war has been widely varied. It has included the planning and conduct of research as the first Director of the Joint Intelligence Bureau and later Controller of Joint Service organisations within the Department of Defence until 1958.

It has also covered since substantial negotiation and conference for the Department of Trade first as Trade Commissioner in Paris and London, then as First Assistant Secretary in charge of the International Trade Relations Division, and since 1966 as Special Commercial Adviser in London.

Mr. Fleming has been a member or leader of delegations to S.E.A.T.O., G.A.T.T. and United Nations conferences on trade and development.
