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P. M. G. MOTOR DRIVERS' DISPUTE

Statement by the Prime Minister following talks with Mr. Monk

The Government expressed the view that the previous return to work of the APWU drivers was the result of an agreement which called for the placing of a case before the Public Service Board, speedy hearing and decision on that case by the Public Service Board, and, in the event of disagreement, subsequent arbitration.

The Government had facilitated a speedy hearing and discussion by the Public Service Board, it understood that conferences had been held before the arbitrator, and that the Board was prepared now and had been for some time to proceed to a public hearing of the case before the arbitrator.

The Government pointed out that it could not itself enter the area of wage fixing since this was done, in the event of disagreement between the Public Service Board and a public service union by the system of arbitration established by law.

It hoped that this system of arbitration would be used and would ask the Public Service Board, as a party to the dispute, to ask the arbitrator to nominate dates for such public hearings as a matter of urgency.

CANBERRA
7 March 1968