

SALARIES BILL 1968

Second Reading Speech by the Prime Minister,
the Rt. Hon. J. G. Gorton

27 NOVEMBER 1968

I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill arises from the Government's decision to increase the salaries of \$15,000 and \$17,500 for Permanent Heads of Departments of State and certain Statutory offices and to provide for the payment of annual allowances additional to these salaries. The new salaries will be \$19,500 and \$22,750 and the annual allowances will be \$1,000 and \$1,500 respectively, with effect from 1 December 1968.

The Bill provides the new salaries and allowances for the holders of the Statutory offices included in the First Schedule to the Bill and, by an amendment to Section 30 (1) of the Public Service Act 1922-1967, for the payment of allowances to Permanent Heads.

The existing salaries of these senior officers date from 1 November 1964. During this period there have been many changes in other salaries in the Commonwealth Service, including the substantial increase of December 1966 in the Second Division. The margin between the Permanent Head's salary of \$15,000 and the highest Second Division salary has been reduced to only \$272. There have also been substantial increases in other comparable salaries.

The annual allowances are for the expenses of office in which these senior officials are necessarily involved but which, by their nature, cannot be met by direct re-imburement. Similar allowances are paid to senior officers in the New South Wales Public Service and in related Government employment and, of course, in many positions in private enterprise.

In reaching its decision, the Government has taken account of the constantly increasing demands placed upon the Permanent Heads of the Departments of State and statutory office holders and their very heavy responsibilities in the affairs of our country.

I commend the Bill to the House.
