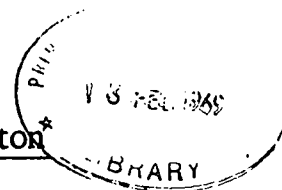


FOR PRESS :

P. M. No. 17, 1969

NEW MINISTER FOR AIR

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr John Gorton*



His Excellency the Governor-General has authorised me to announce that Mr G. D. Erwin, M. P., Member for Ballarat, who is the Government Whip, will be appointed Minister for Air. He will be sworn in on Thursday, 13 February.

Mr Erwin's promotion is well earned and he will be a welcome addition to the Ministry. The new Minister for Air will also carry out the responsibilities of Leader of the House of Representatives.

The Departmental responsibilities of the previous Leader of the House of Representatives, Mr Snedden, have been steadily increasing as evidenced by the record flow of migrants to Australia and by the countries with which new migrant agreements have been made. Because of this, and because of the key importance of migration to Australia's growth, Mr Snedden's time needs to be fully occupied with his portfolio. It will be generally agreed that he has been a successful and tactful Leader of the House.

Mr Max Fox, the Member for Henty, has been appointed Government Whip in succession to Mr Erwin.

CANBERRA,
11 February 1969