

FOR PRESS:

PM No. 18/1971

WAGE RESTRAINT : TELEGRAM FROM VICTORIAN
AUTOMOBILE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Prime Minister, Mr. Gorton, today received the following telegram from the Executive Board of the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce :-

"FOR URGENT ATTENTION EXECUTIVE BOARD VICTORIAN AUTOMOBILE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMENDS YOUR CALL FOR WAGE AND PRICE RESTRAINT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST IN ORDER TO AVOID HARMFUL EFFECTS OF COSTPUSH INFLATION NOW THREATENING AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY STOP VACC LARGEST TRADE ORGANISATION OF ITS TYPE IN AUSTRALIA WITH SOME 5000 PROPRIETORS OF BUSINESSES EMBRACING SERVICE STATIONS NEW AND USED CAR DEALERS MOTOR BODY REPAIRERS ETC ETC STOP EXECUTIVE BOARD ADVISES YOU THAT COMMENCING FORTHWITH ALL DIVISIONS OF CHAMBER WILL BE SPECIALLY URGED TO USE UTMOST RESTRAINT IN SEEKING PRICE INCREASES DESPITE INCREASING COSTS GREATLY AFFECTING PROFITABILITY STOP SOME APPLICATIONS INCREASES ALREADY REJECTED STOP WE WILL USE OUR BEST EFFORTS TO KEEP PRICES DOWN ACROSS RETAIL MOTOR INDUSTRY AS LONG AS POSSIBLE IN AN ENDEAVOUR TO ASSIST YOUR GOVERNMENT RESTORE ECONOMY TO BALANCED GROWTH ACCEPT MY OWN PERSONAL PLEDGE OF COOPERATION IN NATIONAL INTEREST STOP VACC CALLS ON BUSINESS GROUPS PROFESSIONS AND COMMUNITY GENERALLY TO JOIN WITH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT IN THIS NOT INSURMOUNTABLE TASK WITH ALL GOOD WISHES.

.....ATHOL H KELLY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT. "

CANBERRA
11 February 1971