



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS:

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SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. William McMahon.

I have been informed that the Labor Party opposes significant parts of the Bills relating to Mr Justice Kerr's recommendations on salaries and allowances for members of the Commonwealth Parliament.

In my statement in the House on 16 September, I said that the Government had decided that there should be an enquiry into Parliamentary salaries and allowances.

The Leader of the Opposition, in reply, said that the Opposition had suggested, and it supported, the approach which the Government had adopted. The Leader of the Opposition complimented me on having sought and secured the services of a Judge of such distinction in industrial matters.

Hitherto there has been a non-party approach to these issues and it was implicit in the Leader of the Opposition's statement of 16 September that this approach would be followed on this occasion.

The reported new attitude of the Labor Party is a breach of this approach. In these circumstances, the Government reserves the right to take whatever action it considers desirable.

CANBERRA

9 December 1971.