



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No.578
19 October 1975

COMMONWEALTH LABOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Commonwealth Labor Advisory Committee which comprises the four Federal Parliamentary leaders, the National officers of the Australian Labor Party, the officers of the A.C.T.U., representatives of the Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations, and representatives of the Council of Australian Government Employee Organisations met tonight at the request of the Prime Minister.

The Committee gave strong support for the principle which is being correctly fought for by the Government, namely that a Government which has a majority in the House of Representatives should be able to complete the term for which it was elected. There was agreement with the assertion of the Prime Minister that no election for the House of Representatives should ever be held at the behest of the Senate. The peak organisations of the Trade Union movement pledged unqualified support to the Government in pursuit of these democratic principles.

The Committee called on Opposition Senators to cease obstruction and to exercise their constitutional responsibility to pass the Budget. While not conceding the right of the Senate to reject Money Bills and while noting that no Senate has ever done so the Committee called upon Opposition Senators to desist from their cowardly course of voting only to defer the Appropriation Bills, and demanded instead, that they vote to pass or reject them. It believes that Mr Fraser should be prepared to test whether he has the support of all his Senate colleagues.

The representatives of the Trade Union organisations pledged organisational, physical, and financial assistance to the Government in its fight for the future of democracy in accordance with the above mentioned principles. The Trade Union representatives urged that those of their members participating in rallies for democracy should do so peacefully. They deplored the provocative and inflammatory statements of Opposition spokesmen such as Mr Fraser, Mr Anthony and Senator Greenwood, statements which can lead only to that same violence they profess to deplore.

The Committee after hearing a report from the CAGEO representatives, called upon Public Servants throughout Australia to exercise loyalty, patience and restraint in the face of provocation by Mr Fraser and his colleagues who seek power by any means, no matter what the cost to Australia.

ATTACHMENT

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING OF C.L.A.C.
KIRRIBILLI HOUSE, 19 OCTOBER, 1975

Prime Minister
The Hon. F. Crean, M.P.
The Hon. Senator K. Wriedt
The Hon. Senator D. Willesee

A.L.P.

Mr R. Hawke
Mr J. Egerton
Mr J. Ducker
Mr D. Combe
Mr K. Bennett

A.C.T.U.

Mr H. Souter
Mr J. Roulston

Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations

Mr B. Richardson
Mr P. Riley
Mr S. Crabb
Mr J. O'Neil

Council of Australian Government Employee Organisations

Mr B. Gradwell
Mr B. Smith
Mr K. Turbett