



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 581
24 October 1975

THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF THE FAILURE OF SUPPLY

The Government is doing all in its power to see that the necessary Budget Bills are passed. In the event, however, that the Opposition in the Senate remains intransigent and the payment of salaries is suspended or curtailed then the Government will nevertheless look to sustain essential community services as effectively as possible. It is in the interests of all people and is the Government's objective and clear duty to minimise any dislocation of administration. To this end, the Government would expect all its employees, to whom we have to look for the provision of so many vital services, to continue in employment and to work normally.

I give the unequivocal guarantee that the Government's salary and wage commitments arising from that employment will eventually be met. At the same time the Government knows that it can count on the goodwill and good sense of all officers, on the loyalty they give to whatever Government is in power, and on the dedication they apply to their tasks.

The Government will not, however, act other than strictly in accordance with law in attempting to preserve administrative services and maintain wage and salary payments.

The Government has reviewed the financial position of all Departments and authorities and steps have been taken to ensure that wage and salary payments will be maintained through the Supply period, that is until the end of November. The Government has directed that all spending on non-essentials is to be cut to the bone and that funds be conserved as much as possible. It is likely that in addition to wages and salaries most other essential payments can also be wholly maintained until the end of November.

If the Opposition in the Senate continues to deny Supply, however, Government employees may face some personal hardships. In that event I would ask them to accept some personal but temporary sacrifices in the interest of the welfare of their fellow Australians. I can assure them that the Government is looking and will continue to look at every possible way of minimising the difficulties and inconvenience which may face its

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employees and that the Government is developing schemes which will comply with the existing law and which are aimed at alleviating, as much as possible, the problems which might confront employees and suppliers after the end of November.

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