



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

JULY 9, 1976

The Prime Minister received the following telegram today:

"Strongly urge you and your Minister for Health to resume negotiations with Trade Unions on Medibank. I feel sure the efforts of the unions are directed to preserving the legitimate interests of their members. A breakdown of negotiations now could produce serious repercussions at a later date. Regards K.S. Wriedt."

The Prime Minister sent the following reply early this afternoon.

"The Government has always been prepared to talk. It has accepted very significant modifications greatly improving Medibank by enabling it to offer full cover through Medibank insurance.

It is the A.C.T.U. that called this strike. The A.C.T.U. has made no approach to Mr Hunt or myself in recent days. I have been advised that Mr Hawke has not the capacity to prevent the strike. I am arranging for a copy of the Minister's press release of 2 July and an extract from my speech at the Press Club at Canberra on 7 July, which outline the Governments position, to be forwarded to you under separate cover.

I am releasing this reply and the text of your telegram.  
Yours sincerely, (Malcolm Fraser)"