



**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR PRESS

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JOHN ARMSTRONG'S DEATH

John Armstrong was a very distinguished Australian whose tragic death will be deeply felt by his countrymen in all walks of life.

There is no doubt that John Armstrong was first and last a loyal and fervent Australian. He was proud of his country.

As a Minister in Ben Chifley's Cabinet, John Armstrong pushed hard for an Australian Honours system. In his 24 years service as a Senator representing New South Wales, he displayed a great capacity for hard work and a willingness to make a real contribution to the substance of parliamentary life. He brought verve and style to the office of Lord Mayor of Sydney.

As High Commissioner to Great Britain, John Armstrong served Australia's interests with considerable distinction and with characteristic flair. His earthiness, humour and forthright manner won many friends for himself and for his country.

The Australian Labor Party and the Australian people have lost a loyal and faithful servant and a fine ambassador.

On behalf of the Australian Government I extend my deepest sympathy to Mr Armstrong's wife and family.