

PRESS OFFICE TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEW WITH CHANNEL 0, MELBOURNE, AT THE MELBOURNE SHOW.

24 July 1978

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QUESTION: Mr Fraser, there has been some suggestion there are people here from overseas looking to buy rams for export. Are you worried about any confrontation with the Trade Union Movement over this?

PRIME MINISTER: I think that the matter can be handled quietly, and I also think it will sort itself out. In one sense it is not a great matter, but it is important to the people concerned. I also think it is important from the point of view of upgrading world wool supplies, because if we accept that all wool available is good wool I think that helps the industry generally. I would have to say that the suggestion that people can put an arbitrary limit on exports, or direct Australia's exports, tell any particular group of producers that they can't export to certain countries - if you accept any of those propositions, you are accepting something that is very serious for the future of Australia, because we are an exporting nation, our capacity to employ depends upon exports and depends upon access to the world's market overseas. Against that general background the principle that Australia's exporters, whether they are primary industries, secondary industry or miners, ought to be able to send their products overseas without restriction, is a very important principle.

QUESTION: If the ACTU does seem reluctant to resolve, what would be the Government's reaction to confrontation?

PRIME MINISTER: We support the principle that I've just mentioned. I don't believe there will be confrontation, I don't really believe that anyone wants confrontation. I also believe it will sort itself out adequately, and that if there are some purchasers from overseas that they will get to the buys without too much trouble.