



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

THURSDAY, 16 JULY 1981

BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION LEGISLATION

The Minister for Communications and myself have made it plain that there were extensive discussions in the preparatory stages of the Broadcasting and Television legislation, and so there should have been. It is Government practice to consult on legislation where appropriate. As I said in the Parliament on 5 June, you have to have discussions of highly technical matters with the proposals in front of you.

Those discussions have resulted in legislation which the Parliament has passed with a high degree of support. It is better legislation than was there before. It is fair legislation.

I did have discussions, including discussions over drafts, with Mr Searby, Q.C., whom I have known for many years. He has advised me that he did not pass on the substance of those discussions to people in the News Limited organisation.

I also had discussions with Sir Keith McPherson and representatives of the Herald and Weekly Times. I did not have discussions with Mr Packer's Consolidated Press organisation. That is the substance of my involvement in discussions in relation to this matter.

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