



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

THURSDAY, JULY 16 1981

BUDGET ALLEGATION

I repudiate entirely the irresponsible comments on the A.B.C. last night concerning the leaking of last year's Budget.

The report stating that I was perhaps myself responsible for providing a reporter with advance information on the Budget was completely false and scurrilous.

The very same report carried its own refutation in a statement from the Treasurer that the Budget "leak" could have only come from his own office, the Treasury or the Government printer. The report further recognised that the reporter who received the Budget information had said he had not disclosed to anybody the source of the Budget story.

The broadcaster's comments were seemingly designed to give credence to groundless rumours.

Actions of this kind are a disservice to professional journalism and to the reputation of the A.B.C.

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