

PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, JULY 21 1981

NATIONAL WAGE HEARING

The doors of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission should always be open and be seen to be open. Members of the workforce with a case to present should be able to feel that their case will be heard on its merits.

To make this point is in no way to criticise the Commission. There is a perception among some unionists that taking claims before the Commission will be fruitless. The Government is anxious that this feeling should be dispelled.

Tomorrow's National Wage Bench hearing provides an appropriate opportunity for parties to put their views on the operation of the wage guidelines.