



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

MONDAY, 4 JANUARY, 1982

SIR WILLIAM McMAHON

I would like to express my best wishes to Sir William McMahon on his retirement and to express the appreciation of the Government, the Parliament and the people of Australia for a life-time dedicated to the service of his country.

Sir William retires as Father of the House after 33 years in the Parliament, 21 years of them as a Minister of the Crown, first as Minister for the Navy and finally as Prime Minister. His application and his energy have always won the respect of his colleagues. He was a distinguished Treasurer and Foreign Minister in a career which covered seven portfolios before he was called on to lead the coalition Government in March 1971.

I served with Sir William in the Ministry for six years. I have greatly valued his support over the last seven years, since I became Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and I always appreciated his suggestions to me in the office I now hold.

Sir William has served his country with dedication and his Party with loyalty. He will be greatly missed in the Parliament and in the Party room.

I wish him and Lady McMahon many years of happy retirement after the responsibilities of public life.

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