



MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600.

11 October, 1982

My dear Prime Minister,

I wish to advise you of certain decisions that I have taken concerning my future involvement in public life.

May I first of all thank you for the consideration you have extended to me during my recent illness and absence from Ministerial duties; I have appreciated the regular personal contact you have maintained with me during this period. Although I am continuing to make good progress, it will be some weeks yet before my convalescence is complete.

As you know, I have discussed with you on a number of occasions in recent years my desire to conclude my Parliamentary career in view of the strains imposed on my family by the pressures of senior Cabinet office. This was the principal reason for relinquishing my position as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party earlier this year. I took the view, in coming to that decision, that I should remain for a time as a Minister having regard to the obligations I felt to the Government and to my electorate.

The circumstances have now changed and I am no longer able to compromise my family and personal responsibilities by contemplating continued Parliamentary office. My medical advisers have indicated that, while I can look forward to complete recovery, it would be unwise to carry the burden imposed by Ministerial and Parliamentary life. I do not believe that I can properly disregard this advice.

It is therefore my intention to resign from the Parliament within the next few weeks. Having regard to our previous conversations, and to the medical advice to which I have adverted in this letter, I am confident that this course of action will have your concurrence and support. It is appropriate, then, that I should now formally submit my resignation as Minister for Industry and Commerce with immediate effect. It is in the best interests of the Government that you should have the opportunity to fill my position in Cabinet as soon as practicable.

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I have had the honour and privilege to have served as a Minister for twelve of the past fifteen years and, for ten of those years, as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party. My participation in coalition Governments over this period has given me a substantial measure of fulfilment, and I draw satisfaction from the knowledge that I have played a part in securing a number of policy objectives essential to the advancement of our national welfare.

I would like to record at this time my admiration for the leadership you have provided to the Government since 1975. As must be expected in politics we have had our differences. We have nevertheless worked well together and you will continue to have my unqualified support as Leader of the Party.

Having represented the Electorate of Flinders for a record term of sixteen years, I shall retire from the Parliament with considerable regret. I am, however, confident that the seat will be retained by the Liberal Party and I will be doing everything I can to support our candidate.

I wish you and our colleagues every success for the future and I look forward to playing a continuing role in the Liberal Party of Australia during the years to come.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



PHILLIP LYNCH

The Rt Hon. Malcolm Fraser, C.H., M.P.,
Prime Minister,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600



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PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

11 Oct. 62

My Dear Phillip

It is a matter of great regret to me personally and to the Government to learn of your decision to step down from the Cabinet and retire from the Parliament.

Needless to say, I fully respect and understand the position as outlined in your letter of today's date. After your sixteen years in the Parliament - twelve of them as a Minister - I can well understand how difficult a decision this must have been. As has been the case throughout your political career, you are acting in what you see as the best interests of the Government and your colleagues. It is with much reluctance that I accept your resignation and note your intention to retire from the Parliament.

Since you won the seat of Flinders in 1966, you have made an exceptionally distinguished contribution to the Liberal Party and to the Government. Over the years you have done an outstanding job in six different Ministerial portfolios.

I am particularly grateful for the support that you have given me, both as Deputy Party Leader and as a senior member of the Cabinet. I am extremely sorry to lose your services and I know these sentiments will be shared not only by your Ministerial colleagues but by all members of the Coalition Parties in Canberra.

I hope you will soon be fully recovered from your recent illness and much appreciate your offer to continue your support.

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My personal thanks for your great service to the Government and to Australia. It has been a very distinguished Parliamentary career, during which time you have made many friends on both sides of the Parliament.

Again, it is with reluctance that I accept your resignation. I wish you every success and happiness for the future.

Your Sincere
Fellow Traveller
Phillip Lynch

The Rt Hon. Sir Phillip Lynch, KCMG, MP,
Minister for Industry and Commerce,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600