



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

20 February 1985

The talks with the Council of Procedural Specialists broke down with no satisfactory solution.

It became apparent during the discussions that the specialists had no real intention of reaching an agreement. They came to Canberra simply to tear up Medicare.

It is absurd of them to pretend that there is some distinction between the views of Dr Blewett and the Government's policy.

Both the Federal and NSW Governments are adamant that the basic components of Medicare will remain undisturbed.

While we were prepared to enter negotiations on the previously outlined basis, the specialists' position was directed towards the destruction of Medicare.

Any other summary of the talks is a distortion of what occurred.