



## PRIME MINISTER

40/92

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON. P.J. KEATING, MP  
RADIO STATION 2HD

During Question Time I was asked a question about Senator Richardson's participation in a Cabinet decision in 1991 regarding radio licence fees which implied that Senator Richardson had pecuniary interests in conflict with his Ministerial responsibilities.

The imputation is untrue.

Senator Richardson had no pecuniary interest as he was not paid for his directorship.

The real issue is whether Cabinet colleagues were aware he was a director of 2HD and whether that directorship constituted a reason for Senator Richardson not to participate in any particular Cabinet discussion.

Senator Richardson's directorship was common knowledge.

In any case, according to Cabinet Office records Senator Richardson did not attend either the relevant ERC meeting or the Cabinet meeting that decided television and radio licence fees.

Senator Richardson has apologised to me for his oversight in not meeting the full technical requirements of declaration and I accept his apology.

CANBERRA  
April 29, 1992