



# **PRIME MINISTER**

132/93

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP**

**CONRAD BLACK, JOHN HEWSON, AND SENATE INQUIRIES**

Today in Question Time I made clear my intention to refuse any request to appear before a Senate inquiry.

I make no apology for refusing to take part in yet another of the Senate's costly political fishing expeditions, engineered by and for the Opposition.

I will continue to be available to answer any number of questions on this matter in the House of Representatives.

As I said in Parliament today, my Government and I have acted with complete propriety in our dealings with Mr Conrad Black. Further, unlike the Opposition Leader, the Cabinet has given proper consideration to the national interest in our dealings with Mr Black.

It is reported this morning that Dr Hewson is willing to appear before a sham Senate inquiry. I look forward to watching him explain why he undertook to allow Mr Black unlimited control of the Fairfax press, regardless of the national interest, and how he separated that undertaking from his admitted discussion of Fairfax journalistic standards with Mr Black.

**CANBERRA**

**24 November, 1993**