



**PRIME MINISTER**

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

**FISCHER HOLDS THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN CONTEMPT**

The Leader of the National Party, Mr Fischer, has displayed contempt for the institution to which he was elected by inciting demonstrators to disrupt Question Time today and on Monday.

Remarks by Mr Fischer to timber industry protesters this morning, as reported on ABC radio, are particularly unfortunate and irresponsible.

His provocative remarks are also hypocritical, coming from such a conservative political leader. He recently feigned great attachment to the traditions of the Parliament by opposing a decision to end the wearing of wigs by the Clerks. Now he shows complete contempt for the more important traditions of the Parliament by urging members of the public to disrupt proceedings.

Mr Fischer should apologise to the Parliament.

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