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Title:

Press release: Public Service Salaries

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Public Service Salaries.

The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said today all heads of department in the Public Service have had increases in their salaries bringing them to the level recommended by the Public Service Board, apart from those whose salaries are fixed especially by statute.

He was commenting on remarks by Mr. J.L. Travers, Chairman of the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal yesterday, that he had been greatly embarrassed by the introduction into Parliament on Tuesday of a Bill to increase the salaries of certain public servants including the Auditor-General, Mr. G.H.P. Jeffery, a member of the tribunal.

"The Public Service Board had recommended earlier in the year that the salaries of those public servants which are fixed by statute should be brought into line with their proposals for other Public Service heads.

"There was no time during the last session of State Parliament to introduce the necessary legislation and, as a consequence, it was introduced this session at the earliest possible moment.

"There should be no embarrassment whatever to the Tribunal in this matter since the proposals in relation to Mr. Jeffery are merely in line with those affecting other Public Service heads which have already been acted on.

"There might have been cause for adverse comment if the Government had held up the legislation until after the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal had given its decision.

"Then it might have been alleged that we were bringing pressure to bear on the Tribunal to try and influence it to make increases in parliamentary salaries in order for the Auditor-General to get what others had already been given.

"That would have been a gross abuse of Governmental procedure.

"What the Government has done here is entirely proper and there is no question at all of any influence on the Tribunal.

"Mr. Jeffery was already aware of the proposal of the Public Service Board," Mr. Dunstan said.