



Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons:
<http://hdl.handle.net/2328/27231>

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/2364
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

Title:

Press statement from the Minister for Labour: Interruption to National Wage Case proceedings

Please acknowledge the source as:
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/2364

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan



press statement

FROM THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR,
MR. CLYDE CAMERON

For print and broadcast
news media use:

26 March 1974

INTERRUPTION TO NATIONAL WAGE CASE PROCEEDINGS

It is a matter for community regret that for the second time in a matter of days the proceedings before the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in the 1974 National Wage Case have been subject to a rowdy demonstration which can only disrupt the hearings and delay the processes of one of the highest institutions in the land.

This morning's noisy entry by a small group of women into the Court-room where the National Wage Case was being held, has not only been mischievous; it has also been misconceived. Despite an appeal by the President of the Commission, Mr Justice Moore, the demonstrators persisted and the President was obliged to adjourn the hearing.

Such interruptions can only be totally counter-productive. The Commission has repeatedly made it clear that before reaching its decisions in cases before it, it must assess the merits of reasoned argument placed before it.

The Commission has also made it clear that it will not be intimidated by pressure tactics. I agree with the stand taken by the Commission. The only effect which demonstrations during the proceedings of the Commission can have is to prolong them and the handing down of a decision unnecessarily. The action of the small group of women today has delayed wage justice for thousands of women who are dependent on awards of the Commission.

Today's demonstration was even more undisciplined and disruptive than the last one. I would observe that the demonstrators are severally and personally answerable to 4.5 million Australian wage and salary earners for obviating the orderly work of a Commission concerned with their economic welfare. The demonstrators have intruded an unnecessary delay into the case.

I sympathise with women in their desire to have the minimum wage, which at present applies only to adult males, extended to adult females. The Government, in intervening in the Case, has strongly supported the ACTU claim for the extension of the minimum wage to females. People who feel strongly on this issue could best assist their cause by allowing the case to proceed without interruption.

ADELAIDE

26 March 1974

18/74