PRESS STATEMENT:
MALCOLM FRASER:

November 22nd, 1963

In the next Parliament the Government will legislate to control restrictive trade practices with two prime purposes in mind. They will be to protect the small trader and the other will be to outlaw practices that are against the public interests.

It is now one year since detailed tentative proposals were placed before the Parliament. These have attracted considerable criticism, as was intended. The Government now has the benefit of these criticisms, some constructive and some destructive. It will be in a position in the new Parliament to legislate.

There are some people who say there has been undue delay in this matter. The Government, however, has wanted to be sure of its intentions and of its proposals because the legislation will have far reaching effects. It is not legislation that any Government should enter lightly or hurriedly. It is worth remembering that the first decision to do something about this matter in England was made in 1948. This resulted in legislation eight years later in 1956. The present Commonwealth Government has been involved in this matter for about half this time and has brought itself to a stage where it feels able to legislate.

Bearing in mind the principle that I have outlined, the legislation will, I believe, be of great value and will be one more reform, perhaps one of the most significant, that has been introduced by the present Government.
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