In the last few days we have seen many reports in the press concerning the Russian spy ring in the United Kingdom. We have been told that over 100 Russians have been told to leave Britain. We have not been told many details. There have been suggestions that this was industrial spying linked with the Concorde. Most of the world has been left in a good deal of ignorance about the activities of the Soviet spies expelled from Britain. There have been some reports that the Soviet Union would retaliate and would expel a certain number of British diplomats from the Soviet Union. At the moment there has been no confirmation that this would in fact be put into practice. We have been left with the impression that despite the moves to bring the different parts of the world closer together, the relentless pursuit of national interests goes on as much as it has ever done. I think these reports have attracted a good deal less attention than would have been the case several years ago. Some people seem to have the view that spying is an accepted activity of the great powers, and if you are caught out, it doesn't really matter all that much. This is an odd view. If we wish to bring the world closer together, if we wish to establish the circumstances in which the Soviet powers and in which the western democratic world can come closer together, we need to build some kind of world of trust and co-operation. The Russian activities and the British decisions concerning the spy ring indicates that this trust does not really exist.

In recent times, the Senate has established a specialist committee to look into education. In particular the Senate is looking at the training of teachers and the number of teacher trainees who will go out into the State schools of Australia to improve the quality of teaching. Some people have suggested that the Commonwealth is not concerned with these matters. This is very far from the truth. The Commonwealth is engaged in finance program to provide an additional 14,000 teacher trainee places in State teachers colleges or in colleges of advanced education. The program will cost over $60 million. We know that the provision of an adequate number of dedicated teachers has an important
bearing on the quality of teaching in Australia. These programs were in fact ones that I introduced when I was Minister for Education about two years ago. The pupil teacher ratios in primary schools and in secondary schools have been steadily improving. It would improve much faster if all those who entered the teaching services of the States and if those who accepted teacher training scholarships in the States remained in the profession. The wastage from those in training and from those in teaching is one of the significant factors which needs attention from all the State authorities. If this problem could be overcome, the pupil: teacher ratios and the shortage of teachers in particular subjects would be overcome much more quickly. It is a problem that is important and which will need the attention of all the State authorities and of the Commonwealth in the next few months and years.

In recent times, people in both primary and secondary industry have become very concerned about inflation. They have become concerned at the rate at which wage rates have increased, adding to costs and making it difficult for many industries to maintain a viable position. This is shown by the fact that in the three years up to 1970, average weekly earnings increased by about 7% but in the period since then they have increased by over 11%. This shows marked increases in wages in many areas. Increased wages are only going to help workers in different industries if they can buy more goods and services as a result. If the increased wages are only going to add to costs and add to the price of goods and services, then the wage earner will be no better off and the community will be faced with a higher wage structure and, as a result of that, the export industries will be in a much more difficult position. This whole position is made much worse by the strikes that have occurred in a number of industries in recent times. One of the responsible Sydney newspapers had a major article a day or two ago headed 'Industrial Anarchy'. Is this the grim shape of new things to come? The article said that Sydney is looking back at one of the worst weeks in modern Australian industrial history. The article said that in sections of industry, a handful of strikers had succeeded in introducing a state of anarchy. It asked, what is the future of industrial relations? It pointed out that a
handful of militant unionists had held the community to ransom. I was in fact in Sydney when many transport workers were on strike and as a result the roads were blocked, people trying to use private transport had clogged the main access roads to the city and it took much longer than it should to get to or from work. The press report said that the Cabinet was holding a crisis meeting but that in fact the ordinary man in the street had reacted most violently to the disruption and turmoil. According to one Sydney newspaper, somebody said 'I have been a unionist for 30 years, but this is the last straw. I am writing to Bob Hawke telling him that I am quitting'. The newspaper suggested that scores of unionists were supporting this view because they have become alarmed at the number of wildcat strikes. The press report said that ½ million commuters were stranded because of a strike of guards. Half the building workers were stood down because of another strike. The mail exchange was stopped because one man walked out. This sort of activity cannot continue if Australia is to continue to provide rising standards of living for its people. Unions and union leaders needed to use the power that they undoubtedly had with responsibility. It was legitimate to do what they could to increase the standards of their own union members but wage claims pressed too high and strikes for political purpose would do nothing but disrupt the economic life of many people of Australia and make it difficult to maintain the government's objectives of full employment and the rising standard of living. Above all else, we need to understand that a high standard of living in Australia and adequate government provision for the less well off, for the poorer people in the community, for the old and the sick, depended on the willingness of everyone to work for a better Australia. Unnecessary strikes and industrial difficulty made it difficult to achieve this kind of objective. Increased wages, not matched by increased productivity made it difficult for many industries, especially for the rural industries, which had to sell their product on overseas markets. Many people in the cities pressed their own sectional claims without regard for their wider consequences in Australia. Unless people are prepared to look at the total consequences of their actions, the general progress and prosperity of Australia will be threatened.