

(b)(3)

AUSTRALIA

John Malcolm FRASER

Minister for Education
and Science

Malcolm Fraser, formerly Minister for the Army, was named Minister for Education and Science in February 1968 to succeed John Gorton, who had been selected Prime Minister the previous month. Fraser's appointment was not necessarily considered a promotion, but his elevation to the inner cabinet marked him as one of the two most notable younger men in the Liberal Party (LP) parliamentary group. Some of the proposals Fraser advocated in a paper he prepared several years ago on tertiary educational goals for Australia are now in effect in the local universities. These include creation of colleges for advanced education and increased government commitment to the universities. Fraser is a hard-working, pragmatic young man who is well liked by his colleagues.



(b)(1)
(b)(3)

The youngest LP member in the federal cabinet, Fraser received his first ministerial appointment as Army Minister when the late Prime Minister Harold Holt formed his government in January 1966.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

Fraser gained considerable notoriety in late 1966 when he quoted from a government security report to discredit the motivations of the mother of a 15-year-old boy who had refused to participate in a military training program at a private school. Whereas a more experienced politician might have avoided the entire controversy, Fraser's use of a security report to attack a private citizen drew criticism from even conservative newspapers.

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

[REDACTED]

John Malcolm FRASER (cont.)

John Malcolm Fraser was born 21 May 1930 in Melbourne, Australia. He obtained an MA degree in philosophy, political science, and economics from Oxford University in 1952. Unsuccessful in 1953 in an attempt to gain a seat in the House of Representatives, he ran successfully in 1955 and has continued to represent Wannon since that time. Quite active in Parliament, he served as member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs (1962-66), was chairman of the Government Members' Defense Committee, and was a member of the Council of the Australian National University (1964-66). Fraser was the recipient of a 60-day foreign leader grant to the United States in 1964. He visited Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and the Philippines in 1966 and returned to Saigon in 1967 to visit the Australian troops.

Fraser, one of the wealthiest members of Parliament, owns an 8,000-acre estate at Nareen, Victoria. A showpiece of modern agricultural methods, the property supports 21,000 sheep and 1,400 head of prime cattle. Over six feet tall, with strong facial features and a powerful voice,

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He was married to the former Tamara Margaret Beggs in 1956. They have four children. [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

[REDACTED] In addition to the family property at Nareen, the couple owns a large home in a fashionable district of Canberra. Fraser's hobbies include fishing and photography. He is a member of the Melbourne Club.

April 1969

(b)(3)