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PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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With the compliments of

JOHN BRUMBY, M.P.

Federal Member for Bendigo



TREASURER



NO. 133

EMBARGO FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT BY THE TREASURER, THE HON P.J. KEATING, MP

**PRICES SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY - INQUIRY INTO THE TABLE
CHICKEN INDUSTRY**

I have given approval to the Prices Surveillance Authority to hold a public inquiry into the table chicken industry. The inquiry will extend to the various sectors of the industry including the supply of day old chicks intended for broiler chicken production, feed for broiler chicken production, live broiler chickens for processing, and processed broiler chickens. The inquiry will examine the basis for establishing prices, and whether surveillance under section 21 of the Prices Surveillance Act should be exercised over any sector of the industry.

My decision endorses a recommendation put to me by the Authority that the competitive situation in this industry warrants examination, particularly in view of recent acquisitions which have increased the concentration of supply within the industry.

This inquiry will be of an exploratory nature, directed at questions of competition in the various sectors of the industry. It will not be directed specifically at the prices charged by individual companies, and thus their prices will not be frozen pending the outcome of the inquiry.

The inquiry is to be completed and a report submitted within four months. The Authority will be advertising details of the inquiry in the press and inviting submissions from interested persons.

CANBERRA ACT
24 October 1985