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Criticism of Mr Fadden by the Minister for Labour and National Service

[1025]
SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

Advisory War Council Minute
No 1025.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CO-ORDINATION.

Subject:

Criticism of Mr Fadden by the Minister for
Labour and National Service.

SECRET

ADVISORY WAR COUNCIL MINUTE.

MELBOURNE, 6th AUGUST, 1942.

(1025) CRITICISM OF MR. FADDEN BY THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND
NATIONAL SERVICE.

Mr. Fadden referred to a statement made by the Minister for Labour and National Service in the press of 6th August that he (Mr. Fadden) had used information obtained by him as a member of the Council for the purposes of public criticism of the Government.

Mr. Fadden said that he had never broken his oath of secrecy and he took strong exception to Mr. Ward's statement.

The Prime Minister said that he agreed with Mr. Fadden that the secrets of the Council had been kept by him.

The "Argus" 7.8.42.

**MR FADDEN RESENTS
MR WARD'S CRITICISM**

Criticisms of Mr Fadden, Opposition leader, by Mr Ward, Labour Minister, are so seriously regarded by Mr Fadden, that he has asked Mr Curtin, Prime Minister, to request Mr Ward to substantiate his allegations. The Opposition leader said last night that Mr Ward's published statements amounted to an allegation that he (Mr Fadden) had violated the oath of secrecy taken as a member of the War Council. After conferring with Mr Fadden yesterday, Mr Curtin said he would consult with Mr Ward.

"The Argus"

6.8.42

**MR WARD DENIES
MANPOWER CHARGES**
Reply to Mr Fadden

SYDNEY, Wed: Charging Mr Fadden, Opposition leader, with having "deliberately misrepresented the manpower position," Mr Ward, Labour Minister, said today that Mr Fadden had demonstrated his own unfitness to remain a member of the Advisory War Council in the inaccurate statements he had made. "Mr Fadden alleges that a specialist optical worker was placed digging trenches with the Allied Works Council, and charges me with the responsibility for misplacing the man," Mr Ward said. "He should know that that is something over which I as Minister for Labour have no control. The Allied Works Council is responsible to the Minister for the Interior. Mr Fadden pretends he believes the Government is letting Australia's defence drift into chaos. Actually he appreciates that the Government has taken many effective steps to lead Australia from the chaotic state in which it was left by the previous Government.

"Now that those Labour measures are bearing fruit Mr Fadden and his colleagues are anxious to return to the Government benches and to be given credit for what Labour has accomplished. But no one is anxious to give any control back to the group of muddlers who had charge of Australia's fate before the advent of the Labour Government. Those who know the facts are aware that when Labour took over last October this country was practically defenceless. Now, due to efforts of the present Government, the country is in a better position to ensure its defence than at any previous period in its history."