

Drakeford tells of use of RAAF Dakota

CANBERRA, Fri: Questions on his use of an RAAF Dakota aircraft between Melbourne and Canberra were answered by Mr Drakeford, Minister for Civil Aviation, in a written reply to Mr White (Lib, V) today.

Mr Drakeford said he used the plane in his capacity as Minister, but flights were not frequent, and involved only a small portion of the time of five members of the crew.

Three hundred and fourteen gallons of petrol, valued at about £21, for each journey were used during a Melbourne-Canberra return trip. Average passenger loading on a single trip was six, including MP's of all parties on occasions.

No special alterations had been made to the plane, but furnishings were installed at a cost of £550, excluding service labour. A special trip from Hobart to Canberra was made to permit his return from a union conference to a Cabinet meeting.

[Mr H. W. Harrison, secretary of the Chamber of Automotive Industries, said last night that on a private motorist's ration of 12 gallons a month Mr Drakeford's plane had used enough petrol on one trip to last a private motorist more than two years.]

CAR TRAVEL

Two Government cars — one Federal and one Victorian—went from Melbourne to Adelaide with delegates to a road safety conference, Mr Chifley said in reply to a question.

Mr Chifley said he would inquire into the use of the Commonwealth car, and would pass on any information obtained about the State car.

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PAPER