

PLANE PROVIDED FOR MELBOURNE M.H.Rs.

ONE of the large Douglas Aircraft requisitioned by the Air Force on the outbreak of war will be used for the transport of Federal Ministers between Canberra and Melbourne if the coal strike continues.

The plane has been refitted with 16 temporary seats of various shapes and sizes. The original seats were removed when the machine was taken over for reconnaissance and convoy flights.

The present arrangement is for the

plane to leave Canberra soon after the House rises next Friday and return with Ministers early the following week for Cabinet.

Although prepared for this special Ministerial transport service, the machine will remain, under Air Force control, and will be available at a moment's notice for Defence operations.

TRAVEL DIFFICULTIES

The demand for seats on the commercial airlines has increased greatly since railway services were restricted through the coal shortage. Travelling in trains without sleepers, or by road, to Melbourne (420 miles), imposes too great a strain on Ministers. While Parliament is in session they work 14 hours a day. It is essential for the mto have rapid transport between capital cities.

Federal Ministers living in Sydney are not inconvenienced as much as those living in Melbourne, having the choice of a day's train travel, a less arduous road journey, or travel by the commercial airline plane, which conveniently leaves Canberra for Sydney at 5.15 daily.

4.5.40: HERALD