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Committee faults Noah on privacy

By TRACEY AUBIN

Operation Noah, the police campaign to catch drug offenders, has failed according to the NSW Privacy Committee.

In its annual report, tabled in State Parliament yesterday, the committee said its fears that malicious telephone calls to the police would lead to unjustified raids on innocent people had been well-founded.

The stated aim of Operation Noah had been to get the profiteers and misery-makers who peddle drugs to young people, not so much people growing one marijuana plant in their backyard, the report said.

Yet figures provided by the police to the committee had shown that of 600 charges laid by the police to August 7 last year, just 13 per cent were for the supply of drugs.

The committee also found there was "inadequate social justification" for keeping or using information collected through Operation Noah where it related only to the use of soft drugs such as marijuana. It said that information collected through Operation Noah should not be kept if it had not led to a conviction within 12 months.

On July 4 last year a Wollongong man appeared on the *Willester* television program claiming his store had been raided by police who were searching for drugs. He

said that customers trying to enter the store were told by police that a drug raid was in progress.

No drugs were found. Later, the man's son was told by friends at school that he and his father were "druggies". He claimed he no longer had enough customers and would be forced to sell his business.

The committee found that if Operation Noah was to continue the following privacy measures would be needed:

- The public should be told of all the uses the information could be put to, and if the main aim is to identify heroin traffickers that should be emphasised;

- Unsubstantiated information about the use of soft drugs should be destroyed;

- All access to the Drug Law Enforcement Bureau's computer should be logged against the name of the data subject, and the log should record the date of access, the name or code of the person who sought the information and the reason for the access.

Twenty-five per cent of all complaints received by the committee last year involved credit ratings.

The report showed most of those concerned the Credit Reference Association, the main consumer credit reporting organisation.

Sometimes information was not updated quickly and this led to embarrassment for complainants.



Dr Lev Havryliv, left, and Mr Lyenko Urbanchich



... "reckless" accusations have angered immigrants.

Europeans angered by Nazi innuendo

By PETER WHITE, Ethnic Affairs Reporter

NSW's central European migrant communities are outraged by what they see as the wholly unwarranted attack upon their reputations in the wake of the present Nazi war criminal controversy.

Community leaders say immigrants are the innocent victims of political point-scoring and careless reporting surrounding the controversy, and that individuals and communities as a whole, many of whom suffered at the hands of the Nazis, are being damned by innuendo and association.

The NSW Government, with the support of Jewish organisations, recently called for a royal commission into allegations, aired on

an ABC radio program, that Nazi war criminals are in Australia.

"While we fully support any and all endeavours to bring justice to all, the current controversy surrounding the alleged World War II criminals from a war that ended over 40 years ago is a farce," said Mr Gabor Soos, of the Hungarian Council of NSW.

"The Labor Party is using such a tragic period of our history for political point-scoring. They bring it up under privilege and without having to provide any proof.

"The accused, including Hungarians, appear to have no right to defend themselves, but are assumed guilty by innuendo.

"The accusation that Australia was used as a dumping ground for alleged war criminals reflects not

only on the individuals named but on all immigrants from central Europe.

"We should remember there were war criminals on all sides. If we find them let's get them all."

Dr Lev Havryliv, of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations, said his community was outraged by the reckless way accusations were being made.

He said a prominent Ukrainian leader, Mr Yaroslav Stetsko, was named in a television program without any supporting evidence when in fact Mr Stetsko was a victim of Nazi repression who had been arrested and imprisoned in a concentration camp for opposing German activities in Ukraine.

"We certainly support the bringing to justice of war criminals,

but it should be remembered that this information is being provided by the Soviets for political purposes and that they have fabricated documents in the past.

"People should remember that Ukrainians have no reason to love either the Nazis or the communists. We lost three million civilians under the German occupation and between 10 million and 11 million military. In fact more than half the Russian losses were Ukrainian."

A Lithuanian leader, Mr Ilijinas Giniunas, said his community was deeply insulted by the allegations.

"We believe this is a campaign by the communists to discredit our communities and our leaders because we have gone on criticising them," he said.

Urbanchich flings some more mud

Lyenko Urbanchich, self-styled Liberal Party door-keeper, a man who having survived World War II Yugoslavia says he is more than a match for Labor Party "communists" and "Liberal trends", was out on the hustings yesterday.

The subject of recent attacks in State Parliament and an ABC radio series for his alleged Nazi war crimes, this steely-eyed, passionate defender of Slovenian rights and the anti-communist cause seemed out of place amid the prawn cocktails and pork spare ribs of a meeting of the Blacktown Businessmen's Luncheon Club.

There at the invitation of a Liberal Party colleague outraged that his friend was once more the target of left-wing mud-slinging.

Mr Urbanchich happily flung some political mud of his own. On the subject of whether his long-time adversary, the State Minister for Housing, Mr Walker, was a "communist-lover" he said: "If a bird walks like a duck, looks like a duck and sounds like a duck, then it is a duck."

He sought to counter evidence that he had written anti-Semitic articles for newspapers during the German occupation.

"Everything we wrote was censored by the Germans and if you wanted to attack the communists you had to call them the Judco-Bolsheviks."

He told his audience he had been motivated solely by his fierce patriotism for his homeland which he had now transferred to Australia.

IN BRIEF

Three die in crash

Three people died yesterday when two semi-trailers were involved in a head-on collision on the Putty Road at Tinda Creek, 70 kilometres north of Windsor. Police rescue squads and ambulance officers took some time to free the bodies, which were so badly mutilated that the sex of the people was initially unknown.

BLF test case

The deregistered Builders Labourers' Federation will launch a test case under the Trade Practices Act in the Federal Court today against Alpine Erectors, which suspended Mr John Roberts for refusing to give up his BLF union card and join the Builders Workers' Industrial Union. The BLF is seeking a declaration and court order to stop Mr Roberts from being made to join another union.

Growing cities

Darwin and Canberra are the fastest growing Australian capital cities. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Darwin's population grew by 3.63 per cent and Canberra's by 3.47 per cent in the year to September 30, 1985. Perth grew by 1.79 per cent, next was Hobart (1.36), Sydney (0.99), Brisbane (0.92), Melbourne (0.90) and Adelaide grew by just 0.72 per cent. The total Australian population is now 15,795,653.

Meeting at Mobil

The Mobil oil company has called a meeting of its employees this morning to consider a further recommendation which could end a 10-day-old strike over superannuation. Both sides refused last night to reveal the recommendation.

PNG fungus threat

Papua New Guinea has asked Australia to fly in chemicals urgently to stop the spread of a fungus threatening the country's \$300 million coffee crop. The Western Highlands province is under quarantine because of an outbreak of coffee rust in the Bavier River area and more than 1,000 hectares of coffee trees are to be burnt.

Port strike still on

A Municipal Officers' Association strike at the Port of Sydney seems likely to continue following inconclusive talks yesterday. The two-day-long stoppage by 90 foremen and inspectors has closed the Balmain Coal Loader, leaving four coal ships waiting off port. Members are striking over Maritime Services Board plan to reclassify jobs.

Miners reject offer

Nickel miners at Kambalda in

Qantas cuts some first class fares

By BEN SANDILANS, Travel Editor

Class warfare has again broken out in the forward cabins of jumbo jets flying to Europe with Qantas dropping first class tickets by up to \$1,523 and slicing up to \$446 off business class.

The cuts are not as spectacular as they seem because the previous official levels for these tickets were readily evaded by Europeans prepared to fly on other airlines, but they could cost Qantas's main Asian competitors some business.

They bring the official price of first and business class tickets to Europe down towards the unofficial prices already available from some agencies specialising in business or corporate travel. The new fares are available on Qantas services, or permit connect-

lines, JAT Yugoslav Airlines, SAS, Scandinavian, Swissair and Finnair. The old official first class return fare to London, Amsterdam, Athens or Frankfurt of \$5,499 falls by only \$200 to \$5,299. But the \$5,299 price now applies to Rome, Belgrade, Zurich, Copenhagen and Helsinki, which previously officially cost \$6,822 return.

In business class the same destinations in Europe will now be officially priced at \$4,426 return, a fall of \$446.

Meanwhile, the April 30 deadline which was supposed to apply to cheap economy class return flights to Europe has been ignored by all the airlines on the route. The tickets, officially priced as low as \$1,499 return, and on sale for as little as \$1,340 for travel in

Veterans to boost Agent Orange fight

The Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia will ask a series of searching questions tomorrow of the Federal Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Gietzelt, on the adequacy of the Evatt Royal Commission report on Agent Orange.

Senator Gietzelt, along with the Opposition spokesman on veterans' affairs, Mr Tim Fischer, and the Democrats' veterans' affairs spokesman, Senator Macklin, will attend the Seventh Annual Congress of the association at the Anzac Memorial Club, Cammeray.

In the royal commission report issued last year, Justice Evatt proclaimed forcefully that Agent Orange was not the cause of

Hospital malady not getting better

By MARGARET HARRIS and ROSS COLTHART

Hospitals around Sydney are still reporting long waiting lists and serious nurse shortages, neither of which look likely to improve in the near future.

Although they have been told to cut costs by not employing casual staff and reducing spending in non-essential areas, most hospitals say they are already doing that and cannot see how they can avoid projected budget overruns.

Westmead Hospital, one of Sydney's largest teaching hospitals, has 180 beds closed and has a nurse shortage of more than 150.

Westmead has a waiting list of about 1,000 but the waiting times vary between specialties - "1,000 is an educated guess," said the spokeswoman.

St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst, has 110 beds closed and a shortage of 110 nurses. Its waiting list is also about 1,000.

St Vincent's is one of the hospitals expected to have large budget overruns with estimates running as high as \$3 million.

Royal North Shore Hospital, with a projected budget overrun of about \$4 million, also has a waiting list of about 1,000. Although it has paid no outstanding

debts to drug companies such as Roche - yesterday's *Herald* reported the hospital had a large outstanding debt to Roche last February, but this has since been paid - its payments for goods and services are taking longer than usual.

Royal North Shore has 100 beds closed and is short of about 200 nurses.

Smaller hospitals also report nurse shortages and bed closures but are not having so many problems staying within their budgets. Canterbury Hospital has 16 beds closed and is short of 30 nurses.

Other hospitals surveyed by the State Opposition in March reported similar problems. St George Hospital, Kogarah, said it had 80 beds closed, a nurse shortage of 50 places, and a waiting list of about 1,000.

Rose Hospital had 60 beds closed and a nurse shortage of 55 places, while Nepean Hospital reported 40 beds closed and a shortage of 40 nurses.

Superintendents at the hospitals say it is impossible to curb their spending to avoid budget overruns at this stage of the year because the financial year has almost finished.

Call to license pest control operators

By GREG ROBERTS, Rural Reporter

been insufficiently trained to properly apply pesticides."

cal decision not based on the technical facts.

turer of the other organochlorines hit by the restrictions, dieldrin and

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