metropolitan edition

The Advertiser

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Govt promises peace on building sites

From SHANE RODGERS and AAP

CANBERRA — The Federal Government would ensure order was maintained on building sites in the wake of the deregistration of the Builders Laborers' Federation, Parliament was told last night.

The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Mr Willis, said the Government, in co-operation with the States, would make sure workers could get on with their jobs without interference, threat or coercion.

Mr Willis made the comments in his second reading speech on Bills introduced to deregister and break up the union.

He said building employers would be expected to stand firm against BLF efforts to maintain its place in the industry.

Employers seeking deals with the deregistered union would risk exclusion from Government contracts.

He said the actions of the BLF threatened Australia's industrial relations system and did not have the support of the union movement.

"The circumstances confronting us are therefore unique in the history of the nation and they require a unique solution," he said.

Mr Willis said BLF tactics were damaging the building industry and threatening the job security of building workers.

The legislation was aimed at BLF leaders; it was not an attack on building workers.

"The federation has continued to flaunt every accepted convention on which the Australian system of industrial relations depends, and its guerilla tactics, industrial blackmail and intimidation are an anathema to the vast majority of trade unionists," Mr Willis said.

The second Bill, allowing for reallocation of BLF members, stops the BLF applying for reregistration for three years.

"These requirements also extend to any association formed in this industry by members or former members of the federation," Mr Willis said.

"This will prevent any attempt to sidestep the requirements as to registration.

"We consider that three years is the minimum period in which stability can be restored to the building industry without the presence of the federation as a federally registered union."

"Furthermore, the Government believes that the federation should not be capable of registration again unless it is prepared to behave responsibly as a registered organisation."

The Government believed that, based on the union's activities after it was reregistered in 1976, it would be "entirely inappropriate" for the BLF to immediately reapply for registration.

The BLF, on that occasion, was reregistered after giving undertakings about its industrial behavior and adherence to the conciliation and arbitration process.

Mr Willis said then the BLF had "demonstrated within months of reregistration that it had no intention of abiding by those undertakings."

Earlier, during Question Time, the Opposition asked if the general secretary of the BLF, Mr Norm Gallagher, had withdrawn $1.5m from a bank last Friday night.

The Opposition spokesman on employment and industrial relations, Mr Brown, asked Mr Willis if $1.5m in cash had arrived by armored car at the Commonwealth Bank on a corner of Victoria and Russell streets, Melbourne, on Friday morning, the same day the Arbitration Commission ruled that the BLF had breached undertakings given to the commission and employers.

Mr Brown asked if Mr Gallagher, accompanied by four members of the BLF, had arrived at the bank soon after and had left with bags containing the $1.5m.

He asked Mr Willis if he would investigate the matter.

"What steps is he proposing to take to prevent the assets of this union, about to be deregistered, from being concealed or sent out of the country?" he asked.

Mr Willis said he was unaware of the bank transaction referred to by Mr Brown and joked that he banked at the branch and doubted if it had $1.5m.

He said that when the BLF was deregistered, the Federal Government would have no control over the funds of any branch except that in the ACT.

● Page 12 — Bill stops registration of BLF for three years.

COLQUHOUN

Must we suffer for justice?

The blood boils to think of Nazi butchers living snugly in Australia.

The Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, is to be asked by the Australian Jewish Board of Deputies to bring to justice 150 suspected war criminals who have lived among us since they allegedly arrived as migrants almost 40 years ago.

Some were apparently allowed in, despite their abominable crimes, in response to a suggestion by the British Prime Minister, Mr Attlee, that the "time has come to close the door."

That, in 1948, was indeed a generous view. Attlee's Britain, like most of Europe, lay in savaged ruins and the diaspora of the Jews had barely survived the Nazi holocaust.

For many years in many places Nazi war criminals have, despite Attlee's words, been relentlessly hunted in a fierce Jewish lust for justice.

That's understandable. Justice has no statute of limitations. And many Jews still suffer from filial wounds that will require generations of security to heal.

Motivated by blind, violent bigotry, some Nazi supporters committed such inhuman atrocities that they excluded themselves forever from the human virtues of mercy and forgiveness.

'Unforgivable'

For the sake of all humanity, their crimes can never be forgotten or forgiven. They were unforgettable and unforgivable.

And yet, and yet ...

That was 40 years ago — a mere blink of the eye in the long history of Jewish torment, and only yesterday to those families who yearn for the comfort of justice to alleviate the pain of the Nazi massacres.

But we are on the way to a third generation of humans who did not live through one day of World War II. Our worst enemies have become our best friends — more, it is sadly to be admitted, through the cynical pressures of national self-interest than through spontaneous goodwill.

My own family, well represented in the Australian armies of two world wars, is drenched in boisterous bloody tales of callous behavior by our own Diggers. In the mortal passions of battle their actions were seen as patriotic, heroic and even fun.

Today, with the Germans and the Japanese being our allies, they seem as atrocious as the behavior of the Nazis and the Japanese martial fanatics.

So one is left in a quandary. While it is disgusting to think of 150 war criminals getting away with murder — and worse — among us all these years, what is really to be achieved now by a national witch-hunt for old men?

Is it essentially the only moral thing to do to open anew old hatreds, suspicions and wounds?

Or may the punishments harm the community even more than the bleak memories of the ghoulish crimes?

— Des Colquhoun

Mobil strike cuts fuel for planes, cars

MELBOURNE — A national strike by hundreds of Mobil employees has dried up fuel at Melbourne's Tullamarine airport and stopped petrol supplies to most garages.

The giant Victorian Altona refinery, half owned by Mobil, has been paralysed by bans placed in support of the 600 strikers. The refinery supplies about 70 p.c. of Victoria's petrol.

Melbourne's international and domestic flights were delayed yesterday after the fuel pumps at Tullamarine were turned off by striking Mobil employees at the terminal.

Many Qantas passengers were flown to Sydney and the airline was ensuring that all flights into Melbourne had enough fuel to get out again, a spokesman for the company said.

Other airlines turned back flights when informed of the row and at least one Singapore Airlines flight has been stranded here.

The row is over improvements to Mobil's superannuation scheme which the employees claim were promised but have never been awarded.

A spokesman for the staff superannuation negotiating committee said there was nothing going into or out of the Altona refinery, which provides fuel to Mobil, Ampol, Caltex and BP.

He said Mobil had refused to honor its promises and the workers would stay out indefinitely.

He said the strikers — drivers, fitters and turners, technicians, storemen and packers, maintenance workers and clerks — in Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane expected to be joined by another 200 Sydney workers tomorrow.

Mobil's chairman and managing director, Mr Phil Marriott, said the strike was in no one's interests and would disadvantage the company and its employees.

"We are aware that our employees had in fact an expectation that any changes to the superannuation scheme would have been finalised by early April and we understand their frustration under the circumstances," he said.

"However, because of the current turmoil in the industry resulting from the precipitous drop in the price of crude oil we are unable at this time to make a definite statement."

The spokesman for the staff superannuation negotiating committtee said the workers would not return to work until assurances were given that the changes would be made immediately.

In ADELAIDE last night the general manager of the Port Stanvac refinery, Mr R. G. Gillespie, said the bans would not have an immediate effect on supplies from the refinery.

However, Mobil's fuel supplies could be affected if the dispute continued next week.

Mr Gillespie said the bans had affected the Port Stanvac oil refinery and Mobil's marketing terminal at Birkenhead but the refinery was still operating at full capacity and could do so for a number of days.

The bans had stopped the transfer of Mobil products from Port Stanvac to Birkenhead and a 24-hour ban had also been placed on the movement of all Mobil products out of the refinery by pipeline, road, sea and rail.

The refinery was jointly owned by Esso and Mobil and the transfer of Esso oil products was not affected.

Mr Gillespie said Mobil hoped the bans would be lifted following a Federal Arbitration Commission hearing today.

Ultimatum to promoter over Jubilee accounts

By GREG KELTON

An Adelaide promoter has been given an ultimatum to provide by this afternoon final accounts and a report of a major Jubilee 150 event he organised.

According to documents shown to *The Advertiser* yesterday, the Government and the Jubilee board are concerned that the promoter, Mr Bob Lott, has not provided a requested report on the Jubilee's opening ceremony at Victoria Park racecourse on New Year's Eve.

The board also expressed concern about aspects of the financial arrangements for the Military Tattoo at Adelaide Oval on February 26.

On April 2, the chairman of the Jubilee 150 Board, Mr Kym Bonython, wrote to Mr Lott, who organised the events for the board, asking for a full report on the opening ceremony by 3 p.m. on April 9.

In his letter Mr Bonython said that unless the report was forthcoming by 3 p.m. today, the board would have the matter investigated further.

Mr Lott said yesterday the report of about 100 pages had been completed and would be delivered to the board before the deadline.

He said the leaking of the confidential letter to *The Advertiser* was "very mischievous indeed."

A "ball park report" had been given on the Tattoo within a few days of the event and a final report had gone in last month.

The Advertiser was also given copies of the minutes of meetings of the Jubilee 150 Board and the board's executive at which concern was expressed about the Military Tattoo, which featured the Scots Guards.

The board, in both the minutes and the letter to Mr Lott, is shown to be worried about still receiving accounts for both events.

One of the accounts mentioned in the minutes is for $11,000 for accommodation for the Scots Guards. Two others relate to the opening ceremony — $1278 paid to the Corporation of the City of Adelaide for flags and $1713.85 to the Adelaide Hilton for accommodation.

The minutes also show:

● The Minister on the Jubilee 150 Board, Ms Wiese, called for a stronger stand to be taken with Mr Lott to get the final report because taxpayers' funds were involved.

● Members asked Mr Lott to forward money held by him. Mr Lott subsequently sent the board a cheque for $50,000.

The decision to send a letter to Mr Lott demanding financial details on the opening ceremony was made by the board's executive on March 27.

Late report 'unacceptable'

"It is completely unacceptable to the board that more than three months after the opening ceremony was staged and despite several requests, the report has not been forthcoming," Mr Bonython's letter says.

The letter says both the Premier's Department and Ms Wiese had for some time been expressing "deep concern" about the lack of an authoritative document setting out the opening ceremony expenditure and income report.

Mr Bonython said yesterday the board had never disputed the success of the events involved; there were just some details on which it was waiting for a response.

"I am not prepared to say any more at this point," he said.

Ms Wiese said she was disappointed the information had been leaked and confirmed the Government's concern over the lack of accounting.

As the Government's representative on the board she felt a responsibility to ensure proper financial procedures were followed — something with which the board agreed — and for that reason the letter had been sent to Mr Lott asking for the financial statement.

Mr Lott said his organisation had been paid a fee for organising both events. When it won the contract for the opening ceremony it had not been told a final report or financial statement would be required by any particular date.

"It was just a matter of time," he said. "I don't think anybody recognised just how big that event was and reports on other major events like the Grand Prix have just hit the Government.

"It is just the magnitude of the event. There are still some accounts dribbling in for it. We had 400 staff on that night and wages had to be checked, tax taken out and group certificates provided.

"That is an incredible amount of work for a small four-person team such as ours. We had to count something like 500,000 tokens for the opening ceremony to check that money we paid to the caterers was correct."

Mr Lott said that in both events the projected expenditure was kept within budget.

There was no problem there, and a final financial statement which would be incorporated in the final statement had been sent to the board's operations manager on Monday.

On the question of holding the $50,000, Mr Lott said there had been a simple error where he had suggested he take his fee from those funds rather than pay the board the funds and then be paid.

"When it was pointed out to me that this was not the way things were done, I immediately sent the money to the board," he said.

Promoter Bob Lott last night with a copy of the report which is the subject of an ultimatum from the Jubilee 150 Board.

Backbench revolt on home-loan interest rates defeated

From NIKI SAVVA

The Federal Government came under a strong, wide-ranging attack yesterday from its own backbench, but a move to overturn last week's Cabinet decision on home-loan rates was resoundingly defeated.

Housing-loan interest rates, the deregistration of the BLF and the aborted attempt to have the Cabinet consider allowing private research into the US Star Wars (Strategic Defence Initiative) project, were seized on by backbenchers.

A Government decision which will lead to the loss of about 1500 jobs at dockyards in Melbourne and Sydney was also criticised.

Although the complaints were voiced by members of the Left and Centre Left, yesterday's meeting revealed growing frustration over the breakdown in communications between the Cabinet and Caucus.

The Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, was warned consultative procedures were being ignored at the Government's peril.

The Cabinet's decision last week to abolish the 13.5 p.c. ceiling on new bank home loans was the trigger for the latest outbreak of criticism.

Three motions were moved on interest rates.

The first, by Left-wingers Mr Hand of Victoria and Senator Childs of NSW, sought to reverse the decision but was lost convincingly with a vote of 66 to 27.

The second, moved by Centre Left members Mr Darling and Mr Snow, called on Mr Hawke and the Treasurer, Mr Keating, to initiate urgent talks with the States and building societies to ensure their borrowers were not disadvantaged. It did not have enough support to warrant a counting of the vote.

The third, from another Centre Left member, Mr Brown, succeeded, but it is a modest proposal calling on the Treasurer to report to Caucus each month on the success of his package, and to look at complementary measures for the States — that is to consider measures to help building societies.

In his speech Mr Hand told Mr Hawke it was "bullshit" to claim the Government was consulting the backbench.

Mr Hand listed six areas where the process had failed or been ignored — Aboriginal land rights, the BHP takeover bid, a defence statement made to Parliament, the Cabinet submission on the US Stategic Defence Initiative program and interest rates.

Mr Hand said that while people did not necessarily disagree with the move against the BLF, it was a historic act by the Government, yet Caucus was only given details on the legislation yesterday morning.

A motion by another Victorian Left-winger, Dr Theophanous, to delay the BLF legislation for three weeks was lost.

SA Senator Bolkus asked Mr Hawke about a Cabinet submission which sought to "privatise Star Wars."

This submission was being worked on by four Ministers. Two of them, the Defence Minister, Mr Beazley, and Industry and Commerce Minister, Senator Button, were arguing for private companies to be allowed to take part in research.

The leaking of the submission before it went to Cabinet effectively scuttled it.

Mr Hawke gave Caucus an assurance the Government would not change its opposition to the Star Wars project.

● PAGE 9 — SA to fight $50m cut in loan funds

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TODAY April 9, 1986

GOOD morning.

Halley's Comet has helped put a quiet NSW town on the map — in Japan — with a clever piece of international promotion. Read about the Coonabarabran coup on **Page 2.**

News

Hope for home buyers

THERE is renewed hope for SA home buyers as house prices in many areas have either stopped rising or eased in the face of a surge in mortgage interest rates. **Page 3.**

THE LAWYER for convicted drug trafficker Kevin Barlow, Mr Frank Galbally, said last night he was "very confident" Barlow would escape the hangman's noose in Malaysia. **Page 2.**

THE SHADOW Treasurer, Mr Carlton, yesterday predicted more than 10,000 job losses and a net revenue gain of only $49m as a result of the Federal Government's decision to press ahead with the new fringe-benefits tax on company cars. **Page 2.**

DIRECTORS of Email Ltd yesterday moved to allay fears arising from Email's $54.1m takeover bid for Simpson Holdings by promising that no plants would be closed and that there would be an acceleration of capital investment. **Page 3.**

THE FEDERAL Government should stop welfare payments to unmarried women with more than one child, says Queensland's Welfare Services Minister, Mrs Chapman. **Page 3.**

POLICE burst into a house in Whyalla late last night to end a siege which had begun about 12 hours earlier. **Page 3.**

FEDERAL Cabinet will be asked to consider means testing the dependent spouse rebate in preference to setting a flat-rate family. **Page 9.**

USING secret, but peaceful, guerilla-style tactics, about 400 farmers rallied for the third time in Canberra putting pressure on the Federal Government on its $200m rural aid program. **Page 14.**

A MARLESTON man is considering police advice to shoot on sight a dog, possibly a dingo, which he says slaughtered 10 of his ducks and fowls early yesterday morning. **Page 15.**

A MACHINE which enables doctors to do routine low-cost, five-minute blood tests in their consulting rooms, with the promise of huge savings in pathology costs, is being evaluated by the SA Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science. **Page 16.**

Hardliners' campaign

HARDLINE Protestant leaders in Northern Ireland say they will step up their campaign against the Anglo-Irish agreement by trying to break the police force's loyalty to the British Government. **Page 5.**

Opinion

Gruelling test

WHAT is this World Three-Day Event at Gawler next month all about? It is an exciting, varied and spectacular sport and a comprehensive and gruelling test for both horse and rider, says **Christabel Hirst** in an article on **Page 7.**

Sport

South Adelaide wins

SOUTH Adelaide staged a remarkable second-half revival to upset Glenelg and win the $77,000 Escort Cup grand final last night. South went into the game as firm underdogs but refused to be intimidated by the 1985 premiership side. **Page 31.**

Business

Gove enquiry

THE Federal Government will investigate whether the partners of the Gove alumina project, Queensland, have been avoiding tax through "transfer pricing." **Page 22.**

Taste

Kitchen dangers

ONE man's meat might be his poison as well — depending what it was cooked in or on. The potential health risks caused by the materials used in common kitchen utensils are exposed in **Taste**, starting on **Page 23.**

Mike Jaensch
Chief Sub-editor

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