

Toys 'R' Us
at the
WAREHOUSE

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SHOPPING

HOURS

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'TILL
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TUGGERA-
NONG
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9pm
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Last bid to sway Senate on Bill

Opposition, Democrat and Independent senators have been urged to vote against the controversial war crimes Bill when the Senate resumes debate on it today.

The Captive Nations' Council wants the Bill defeated and has warned its passage would open "bitter and acrimonious divisions" within Australian society.

The council claims to represent ethnic groups from countries under communist rule, including some, such as Latvia, which are believed to feature heavily on the Federal Government's list of alleged war criminals living in Australia.

Council spokeswoman Leni Palk said in a statement yesterday that many eminent Australians had already voiced opposition to the Bill.

And she warned that innocent people charged with crimes under the Bill could suffer if they were unable to produce witnesses capable of remembering events which occurred more than 40 years ago.

The Bill would allow prosecutions to be launched against alleged war criminals from World War II now living in Australia.

It is expected to be passed in the Senate on Tuesday with several significant government amendments.

The Bill would then have to return to the House of Representatives for approval of the amendments before it could be proclaimed as law.

Six of the seven Australian Democrats and NSW Independent Senator Irina Dunn indicated on Friday that they were ready to support the amended Bill, giving the Govern-

ment the numbers in the Senate to ensure its passage despite continuing Coalition opposition.

One key clause of the Bill is to be amended to better protect the legal rights of defendants by ensuring that courts hearing war crimes charges would follow normal criminal court rules of evidence and procedure, which give courts the power to take action to prevent an abuse of process.

But the Government has repeatedly said it would not allow any amendment to exclude Australian ex-servicemen who served in Europe during World War II.

The Bill passed the second reading stage on Friday, after a debate in which 34 senators spoke. It will go to the committee stage for consideration of amendments today, with the final vote expected tomorrow.

Scholarships replace subsidies

The existing Federal Government subsidy for overseas tertiary students is to be phased out in favour of fully funded scholarships targeted specifically at developing nations, the Government announced yesterday.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Gareth Evans, said the new scholarships will become available from the start of the 1990 academic year and the existing 45 per cent subsidy will be phased out between 1990 and 1992.

Senator Evans said the new Equity and Merit Scholarship Scheme will be funded and managed as part of Australia's international aid program and he expects 2000 of them to be made available by 1990.

He said the existing \$80 million a year subsidy tended to support those private students from developing countries who already had the personal or institutional funds to pay for tertiary courses in Australia.

"This has caused aid funds to be channelled to relatively prosperous countries at the expense of those dem-

onstrating greatest need," Senator Evans said in a statement.

"As well, the cost per place under the subsidised scheme was based on average course cost, which for those students undertaking less expensive courses often meant that the price students paid was about the same as the full-fee cost of the course undertaken."

He said foreign students would have plenty of time to learn about EMSS, as application procedures were expected to be widely advertised by mid-1989 in appropriate countries.

"On the equity side, the scheme will provide overseas study opportunities to disadvantaged students for whom such training would not otherwise have been available," Senator Evans said.

"On the merit side it will select the best students from developing countries for study in Australia."

Senator Evans said the Government would continue to spend as much on the new scholarship scheme as it did on the subsidy.



Senator Gareth Evans

Officials reject ban on MU2 aircraft

Aviation officials rejected yesterday calls for the grounding of the aircraft type involved in last week's fatal air crash in outback Western Australia.

Six women and four men died when their Mitsubishi MU2 nosedived into scrub 45km west of Leonora on Friday.

The crash led to immediate calls for the grounding of remaining MU2s amid claims the plane had a bad safety record.

But the Civil Aviation Authority rejected the calls yesterday. The acting general manager of the authority's airworthiness division, Mel Dunn, said it would be premature to make any decision until the results of an investigation were known.

Funds claim 'unfair'

The Commonwealth Grants Commission had been "grossly unfair" to the residents of the ACT in comparing their community to that of the states, the independent candidate for the coming ACT Legislative Assembly elections, Harold Hird, said yesterday.

Mr Hird was replying to a report in yesterday's *Canberra Times*, quoting an ACT Administration document which said the ACT was over-funded by 10 per cent and must cut costs by \$80 million a year.

According to the document the ACT was currently funded by \$293-a-head more than the states — or about 10 per cent a year.

Data for the report was drawn from information published by the Grants Commission and prepared by the ACT Treasury.

Mr Hird said the ACT should not suffer any rises in electricity or municipal-type charges as a result of self-government. In the past the ACT had paid its way but the Government had not.

The Government occupied a great deal of office and building space in the territory, paid no rent, yet shared the municipal services with the community. Also, a large fleet of Commonwealth vehicles used the community's facilities but were not required to pay registration.

IN BRIEF

No two-up for Silver City

SYDNEY: The NSW Government will not legalise two-up gambling at Broken Hill, in the state's west. NSW chief secretary and Minister for Tourism Gary West said yesterday.

And neither will the Government introduce any new "casino-type" gambling games elsewhere in the state.

Earlier, he announced plans for a \$20 million resort to be built on the edge of the Silver City, which is making a strong bid to become the new centre for outback tourism to keep the town going when the mines close.

Iloa clean-up

PERTH: Emergency service workers and residents were cleaning up over the weekend in the wake of Cyclone Iloa, which crossed the Western Australian coast on Saturday night causing widespread damage in the Pilbara district.

Though there were no reported injuries, the State Emergency Service said Iloa brought down powerlines and caused extensive damage in Roebourne, Wickham, Dampier, Karratha, Pannawonica and Mt Tom Price.

Assault charges

DARWIN: Police have charged six young men with assault and property damage following the bashing of a police officer and two local residents at the Daly River settlement, 200km south-west of Darwin yesterday.

The officer in charge at Daly River, Constable Gordon Noble, said a group of about 20 Aboriginal youths, who call themselves the Warriors, attacked the police station on Saturday afternoon.

Soccerpools

Soccerpools, week 177: 7, 13, 15, 26, 27, 38. Supplementary: 34.

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