

The Canberra Times

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18 Pages

ACT buses: some peak services cancelled

By GRAHAM DOWNIE

Industrial action continues to cause the cancellation of some Canberra bus services.

Yesterday, 27 services were cancelled and the acting manager of ACTION, Mr Jim Davis, said more than 150 buses were off the road and some peak-hour services would have to be cancelled today.

Further pressure was expected to be put on the depleted bus fleet today with the resumption of ACT schools, and it appeared there would be quite a few peak services cancelled, particularly feeder services in Belconnen. About 80 buses were off the road from the Belconnen depot and Kingston and Woden each had about 40 off the road.

Mr Davis said mechanics were working overtime to repair buses which had been held up because of the bans which were lifted last week. Continued bans by tyre-fitters meant a number of buses were being kept off the road. Without the tyre-fitters' dispute there would have been only minor disruptions yesterday. Few of the buses off the road from the Kingston depot were waiting for tyres to be fitted, but about half those at Woden and Belconnen needed tyres.

The ACT Administration's acting director for industrial relations, Mr David Worth, said that the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission had been notified yesterday of the tyre-fitters' dispute. It was not known when the commission would hear the case.

Mr Davis did not believe the disruptions would have any effect on the planned improvements to Canberra's bus service in April. The training of new bus drivers for the increased services was picking up and there had been a swarm of applicants yesterday for advertised drivers' jobs.

There would still be a need to increase the number of buses available for service, and this would include getting buses through the workshops efficiently and getting new buses from the supplier.

Mr Davis said the supplier was behind in its deliveries, but it was anticipated the improved services would still be introduced in April, though he would not give a date.

Speedsters beware in school zones

There will be a strong police presence in the vicinity of ACT schools this morning as the school year begins, with special emphasis on motorists' observance of 40km/h school zones.

A spokesman for the Australian Federal Police said yesterday that extra police patrols would be on the road to make sure motorists complied with the speed limit and officers would be using speed radar and anemometers to catch speeding drivers.

Internal surveys had shown that motorists travelled faster through certain 40km/h zones and police would pay particular attention to these.

Schools closures to 'unsettle' ACT education. — Page 8.

LATE NEWS

Israeli soldiers kill two rioters

TEL AVIV, Monday (Reuters). — Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinian rioters and wounded three in the West Bank village of Anabta today in a fresh outbreak of Arab unrest, military sources said.

The Palestine Press Service, which backs the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said 20 people had been injured in the clashes.

The deaths of the Palestinian protesters were the first since January 15 and the instruction by the Minister of Defence, Mr Rabin, that in stopping riot troops should beat protesters rather than shoot them.

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Highest levels of police 'seemed party to corruption'

BRISBANE: The highest levels of Queensland's police force and police ministers appeared to be party to corruption, the Fitzgerald inquiry into police corruption and organised crime was told yesterday.

Retired inspector Mr John Bill Boulton, who has admitted accepting \$8800 in bribes, said he believed suspended commissioner Sir Terence Lewis, current caretaker commissioner Mr Ron Redmond and every assistant commissioner must have known about graft.

Police ministers or the commissioner must have also been involved in Brisbane prostitution, he said.

Mr Boulton, 57, was the first witness at the resumed Fitzgerald inquiry hearings, which had been in recess since December 11. He was granted an indemnity from prosecution on December 18 and gave evidence yesterday with a plain-clothes guard at his side.

When asked why he had not reported the bribes given to him by the disgraced former police officer Mr Graeme Parker, he said, "I felt that Mr Parker was answer-

able to someone higher. Someone higher had to be someone on the tenth floor."

He said the 10th floor of Brisbane's police headquarters housed senior-ranking police, including Commissioner Lewis.

"I had in the back of my mind 'Whatever he's doing, he's doing with the sanction of the commissioner'," he said.

The force's assistant commissioners must have known of corruption in the licensing branch, the arm of the force policing prostitution, SP betting and illegal gaming.

"I can't understand, they mightn't have known exactly in detail ...," he said. "They may all have had knowledge of it without being a party to it."

The fact that there was a controlled number of brothels in Brisbane indicated that a police minister or the commissioner was involved in prostitution.

In other allegations, Mr Boulton said Sir Terence was a friend of kung-fu "lord" Mr Malcolm Sue, who ran a martial-arts school and security service in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane.

Cabinet papers provided to inquiry

Queensland Cabinet papers going back several years have been provided to the Fitzgerald inquiry.

The Premier, Mr Ahern, said Cabinet had been asked for certain papers by the commissioner, Mr Tony Fitzgerald, QC, and had agreed. "We want this commission to have the fullest possible cooperation," he told a news conference yesterday. "We have nothing to hide."

He said Mr Sue's service used guards dressed in Gestapo-style black shirts who were so threatening that uniformed police complained about them.

There were also allegations that the service was a front for a protection racket that demanded money from restaurateurs.

Mr Boulton said he had been told that Sir Terence had allowed Mr Sue to open an illegal gaming club in Fortitude Valley which had an exclusively Chinese clientele.

Mr Ahern said he would make a formal submission on informal discussions he had held with Mr Fitzgerald. Asked whether he was prepared to give evidence, he said, "Absolutely."

Former Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen said yesterday that he was willing to give evidence to the inquiry but believed he would not be called "because I've got nothing to tell them."

Another Chinese businessman, Mr Jack Hing, who ran the Cafe Cafe restaurant in Fortitude Valley, had said he was Sir Terence's friend and offered to intervene to get Mr Boulton the job of inspector in charge of the licensing branch.

Last year Mr Hing had offered to pay him \$20,000 each month if he would accept the job when it again fell vacant.

'Statement of cooperation' Soviets to help in war trials

By ANDREW FRASER

Australian residents who allegedly committed crimes during World War II may have to stand trial on the basis of records provided by the Soviet Government.

The head of the Federal Government's special investigations unit into war crimes, Mr Bob Greenwood, QC, said yesterday that letters of agreement had been exchanged between the Soviet Union and the Australian Government which would allow evidence from Soviet citizens to be taken into account in any Australian investigation.

Mr Greenwood, who was speaking at a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Matters, said letters exchanged so far with Soviet officials had applied only to witnesses for the prosecution, but he was seeking to extend this to defence witnesses as well.

He said the letters were not a formal agreement in themselves, but he was hopeful a more formal agreement might be forthcoming.

"I regard the letters as a positive statement of cooperation from officials of the Soviet Union, in particular departments of the Government of the Soviet Union," he said.

He said the Soviet officials had tentatively agreed to allow access to Soviet archives and to provide witnesses if trials were to be held in Australia, and that Hungary and Yugoslavia might also agree to cooperate with Australia in the investigation.

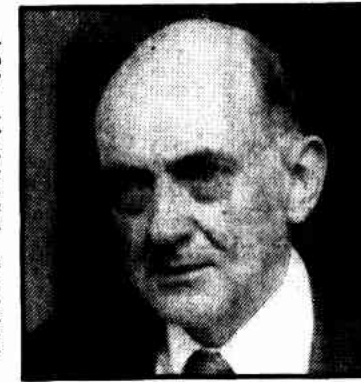
Soviet cooperation would be quite a coup for the Australian Government, because similar requests for assistance from the Governments of the United States, Israel, and West Germany have been refused by the Soviet Union.

The Senate committee is due to report by February 16 on matters relating to the Government's War Crimes Amendment Bill, which, if passed, will enable war-crimes trials to proceed in Australia.

But the "shadow attorney-general", Mr Reith, said the Opposition wanted to know a lot more about the way the Government proposed to handle the investigation.

"You really need the witnesses out here, rather than just giving statements from their home countries," he said. "You also need to clarify how much evidence and the nature of that evidence."

"We want to find out exactly what the Government is proposing. There are a lot of problems ahead. For example, what happens if a witness comes out from Russia for the criminal hearing. Does he then have to go back to Russia until the actual trial? As it stands at the moment, it's a very messy area, and I don't think the Government has really thought through all the implications of it."



Mr Bob Greenwood, QC, at Parliament House yesterday.

A United States lawyer, Mr Paul Zumbakis, the author of *Soviet Evidence in North American Courts*, told yesterday's meeting that much of the evidence from Eastern-bloc countries was unreliable.

"I'm not saying that all evidence from behind the Iron Curtain is bad, but you'd never know, for instance, which one of 10 witnesses would be good," he said outside the hearing.

Mr Greenwood said he had a list of about 450 people believed to be in Australia at the moment and who could be connected to alleged criminal activities during the war. However, only about half the names on the list warranted serious investigation.

Mr Greenwood said his predecessor in the investigations, Mr Andrew Menzies, had given him a list of about 250 names, but more names had been provided by members of the public, as well as the Wiesenthal Nazi War Crimes Centre in the US.

The matter of war crimes committed by people now resident in Australia was first raised about two years ago by an ABC journalist, Mark Aarons, who also gave evidence to the inquiry yesterday.

In his submission, Mr Aarons said that, however disagreeable the political system in Eastern-bloc countries, the fact remained that these countries had never submitted forged or perjured evidence in the trial of an alleged war criminal in a Western country.

"For Australia to reject the use of such evidence in trials here would put us out of step with the other Western countries with which we share a similar legal heritage and system," he said.



Prince Charles dons his polo gear yesterday before taking part in a match at Mr Kerry Packer's property, Ellerston, near Scone.

Prince Charles spends a day doing what he likes best . . . and wins

SCONE: Prince Charles enjoyed a break from his official duties yesterday afternoon by doing what he likes best — playing polo.

A jubilant Prince of Wales, whose polo team won the match played at Mr Kerry Packer's property, Ellerston, near Scone, NSW, talked to a group of locals and told them how much he was enjoying himself.

"It shakes up my liver and that is just what I need," he told a crowd of supporters between chukkas.

The 90-minute exhibition match, which began about 5pm, was played on one of the seven lush polo fields at Mr Packer's 25,000ha property in front of about 1500 people.

Mr James Packer said his fa-

ther had been detained on a business trip in the United States and was unable to attend the first Royal polo match on the property.

Prince Charles scored three of the nine goals for his team — the Ellerston "Whites", comprising the Prince, Mr Lance Shepherd, Mr Peter Cudmore and the only local team-member, Mr Hamish Munro.

The opposition were the Ellerston "Blacks", made up of Mr James Packer, Mr Stuart Gilmore, Mr Sinclair Hill and the Duchess of York's brother-in-law, Mr Alex Makin.

The "Blacks" were originally leading 4-2 but the "Whites" fought back to win by 9-7.

Prince Charles's polo manager, Major Ronald Ferguson, said,

"He has played extremely well — especially when you consider he is riding a totally strange horse and is therefore at a tremendous disadvantage. But he loves his game and he is fit and riding fit."

Asked about how dangerous the sport of princes is and how necessary it was for Prince Charles to wear a face mask, Major Ferguson said, "It is a dangerous game and you don't play unless you expect to get injured."

"The Prince has been fairly fortunate — there has been a few cuts, bruises and bangs but I don't believe he has actually had a break."

Major Ferguson is always present when Prince Charles's official engagements are made so he can ensure the Prince can play as much polo as his duties allow.

NSW ALP asked to return money

By STEPHEN GUEST

A Japanese-owned woodchip company in Eden has called on the NSW Labor Government to refund its \$10,000 election-campaign donation.

The NSW Planning and Environment Minister, Mr Bob Carr, had accused the company, Harris-Daishowa, of an act of impropriety in giving \$10,000 to the Liberal Party. He said the company had made the donation because the party opposed the creation of national parks.

Harris-Daishowa was one of the major losers in the NSW Government's decision last week to declare large tracts of forests in the Eden area national parks.

The company denied any impropriety over the donation and said the decision to fund both parties could not be interpreted as having a dollar each way.

A spokesman for Harris-Daishowa, Mr Ian Nicholas, said the parties had received \$10,000 each in December because they had "asked for it".

Good corporate citizenship meant funding many community groups, including political parties. "You fund them equally and let them run their own races," he said.

HOBART: Sixteen conservationists have been arrested after a blockade at Clunier Bluff in Northern Tasmania. About 50 conservationists from around Australia blocked the road to the area yesterday morning to protest against the decision to allow logging there this summer.

CCAE staff acted with propriety: report

By TONY WRIGHT

All staff at the Canberra College of Advanced Education had acted with propriety in the events surrounding the departure of four Vietnamese students from the college last year, the new principal, Professor Roger Scott, has found.

Professor Scott's finding follows his month-long inquiry into allegations that college staff had aided a "group leader" and other Vietnamese officials to "terrorise" the four students who left, seeking asylum in Australia.

The report of the inquiry was tabled last week before the college council, and was made available yesterday to *The Canberra Times*.

In it, Professor Scott exonerates all college staff from allegations of impropriety, but notes that "as always, the benefits of hindsight usually indicate a preference for slightly different courses of action in response to emergencies, but it is in the nature of emergencies

that responses must be made swiftly in the light of the best immediate judgment about consequences."

He told *The Canberra Times* yesterday that the college would consider the appointment this year of more counsellors to deal specifically with the interests of Vietnamese students. About 40 Vietnamese students are expected to be enrolled under the United Nations Development Program.

The college would attempt to deal individually with the concerns of Vietnamese students, rather than continuing to recognise the "group-leader" system.

Professor Scott said he and college staff, in dealing with groups of foreign students, were forced to walk "a difficult tightrope" between recognising cultural differences and adhering to the liberal ideas by which Australian academic institutions had traditionally been run.

In his seven-page report, he noted

that "it is always regrettable when communal conflicts which seem to dog the rest of the world intrude into local educational facilities. But difficulties may be inevitable for as long as Australia — and specifically the CCAE — chooses to provide access to overseas students as part of a national development assistance program."

The difficulties to which he referred occurred late last year after a Vietnamese student, Mrs Dung Nguyen, left the college and sought political asylum. She eventually received permanent residency in Australia on humanitarian grounds.

After she left, it is alleged that group leaders within the course had drastically tightened security; students were followed; rooms of students were searched; bank books and passports were confiscated and it was made clear to some of the students that they were under suspicion of helping Mrs Dung Nguyen "defect".

Allegations published in the media included that college staff had "cooperated with the thugs (who are said to have terrorised Vietnamese students)", had moved three of the Vietnamese to rooms "close to their 'protectors'" so their movements could be monitored 24 hours a day, and that "a CCAE official initially withheld payments due to the students at the request of the group leader."

It was also suggested that CCAE staff had provided assistance to the Vietnamese student leadership to search rooms.

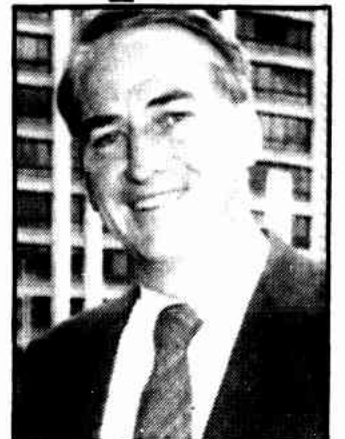
Three Vietnamese students left the college, seeking political asylum, after Mrs Dung Nguyen's departure. They said they had left because they felt they would be in danger if they returned to Vietnam because they had fallen under suspicion at the college. Their applications for asylum were refused, but they are still appealing for permanent residency. A decision is expected soon.

Professor Scott arrived to take up his new post of college principal on January 2, when most of the 28 members of the Vietnamese class had left Australia. He interviewed about a dozen people during his inquiry, including those who represented the students who had left the course, seeking asylum.

He found there was no evidence to suggest that college staff had "connived at" or "facilitated" any attempt by the group leader to stop students mixing freely with those in the Canberra community who the group leader believed had persuaded Mrs Dung Nguyen to leave.

He found that Mrs Dung Nguyen's reason for leaving was not in any way associated with her treatment at the college — her reasons were related to "person-family" conflicts. Her departure had led to the suspicion by the group leader, Mr Nam, that others were likely to seek not to return to Vietnam.

Continued on Page 3



Mr Tony Fitzgerald, QC, arrives at the inquiry yesterday.

Twins born after sterilisation: doctor not liable

MELBOURNE: A woman who gave birth to twins after a tubal-ligation operation to make her sterile failed yesterday in a Supreme Court damages action against her former obstetrician.

Justice Tadgell ruled the obstetrician and gynaecologist who performed the operation, Mr John Stanley Barnes, was not liable for damages as he had no duty to refer to the risk of failure of a tubal ligation or the possibility of a vasectomy for the woman's husband.

He said the court had been told the chance of a pregnancy after the operation on Mrs Milena Petrunic, 40, of Broadmeadows, was "infinitesimal".

Mrs Petrunic had the operation three days after the birth of her fourth child in March, 1980.

Mr and Mrs Petrunic did not use contraceptives after the operation as they believed she was infertile.

"To their dismay, they discovered in March, 1981, that she was some 14 weeks pregnant and on September 9 she was delivered of healthy twins, a boy and a girl," he said.

The couple alleged the twin birth caused them to suffer loss and damage.

But Justice Tadgell said there was no evidence that the operation, which involved the excision of up to two centimetres from both the right and left fallopian tubes and the cauterisation of the resulting free tubal ends, was improperly performed.

After the birth, another gynaecologist discovered both tubes had been cut but the right-hand tube had reunited, allowing its recanalisation and the subsequent pregnancy.

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WEATHER
CANBERRA: Fine, Cloudy. Chance of rain 5%. Max 23.
Last year: 15 to 38.
LAKES: Winds SE/E 15-25 km/h.
S. TABLELANDS: Mild, mainly cloudy. Moderate winds.
S. COAST: Cool to mild. Some showers.
Details — Page 10

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