

'Revenge, not justice' in nazi war trials

ADELAIDE: A former South Australian lieutenant-governor supported yesterday calls by a right-wing group against Australia's first nazi war-crimes case.

Sir Walter Crocker, 90, claimed the case was being driven by revenge, not justice.

Sir Walter said he would join members of the League of Rights group in a planned demonstration outside an Adelaide Magistrates Court when committal proceedings against Ukrainian-born Ivan Polyukovich resumed today.

Polyukovich, now a 75-year-old pensioner and Australian citizen, is accused of killing 24 Jews and being involved in the mass murder of up to 850 more in the German-occupied Ukraine in 1942 and 1943.

The case has gone ahead after a long legal challenge, which included a ruling in the High Court.

Sir Walter, a former Australian ambassador who served as SA governor from 1973 to 1982, said he would "prefer the peace of my garden and my books to public demonstrations in the street", but he wanted to draw the public's attention to the case.

While he was not associated with the League of Rights, which staged a small and quiet vigil when the committal hearing began last month, he admired their "initiative and courage".

Sir Walter fought as a lieutenant-colonel in the British Army in World War II and said he was not condoning nazi war crimes.

However, he believed the Polyukovich case, and others being brought under the Federal Government's controversial War Crimes Amendment Act, should not proceed. "First, this and relat-

ed trials are not driven by justice but by hatred and revenge," he said in a statement.

"Second, the events at issue took place half a century ago. The nature of evidence available is dubious."

"Third, the accused committed no crimes in Australia during their years here."

"Fourth, the accused committed no crimes against Australians anywhere. Fifth, the cost of the trials to Australian taxpayers has already run into millions of dollars."

"Sixth, Australia had no reason whatever for getting mixed up in this costly folly, but every reason for keeping out of it."

He said the case came about only after the Federal Government had given in to "a lobby which represents very few Australians and no Australian interests."

He said the lobby was "battered with great wealth, with exceptional self-centred persistence and with ruthless cleverness."

"A connected lobby has been operating with similar effects in England, Canada and France."

"It's propaganda, accepted by large segments of the mass media which has confused and misled Australians, even those normally well-informed."

A spokesman from the Federal Director of Public Prosecutions, Canberra office, Ian Birmingham, said evidence surrounding the exhumation of a mass grave outside the Ukrainian village of Serniki would be presented when the hearing resumes today.

The grave was allegedly the result of the execution of between 553 and 850 Jews in September, 1942.

Welcome back to The Causeway . . .



Past and present residents of The Causeway community yesterday joined together to remember earlier days. Among those there were members of the McAppion family, who moved into The Causeway in 1925. Jim McAppion, 56, Letty Rogers, 74, Moya Blake, 59 and Jack McAppion, 64, lived in number 73. Their father was a painter on the Parliament House project.

Picture: RICHARD BRIGGS

Training for prostitutes absurd, says Opposition

A requirement that brothels train their employees under the Federal Government's training-guarantee scheme was absurd, according to the Opposition spokesman for trade, Alexander Downer.

The scheme provides that employers with an annual payroll of more than \$214,000 must meet a minimum training-expenditure requirement of 1 per cent of the annual payroll.

Mr Downer released correspondence between the Australian Taxation Office Training Guarantee division and an Adelaide chartered accountant confirming a brothel's legal requirement to train its employees if above the payroll minimum.

"Naturally, all of us are wondering what sort of training programs the Australian Taxation Office has in mind," Mr Downer said in a statement.

The requirement "simply underlined the absurd nature" of the scheme.

"I do not doubt that there are some people working in this industry who are born with natural skills for the job," he said.

"Some forms of employment require extensive training and others do not. To make industries where extensive training is unnecessary create training programs just for the sake of it is complete nonsense."

Govt review 'a waste of money'

SYDNEY: A state Labor MP accused the Greiner Government yesterday of attempting to whitewash its "maladministration" by engaging the office of public management to review the use of consultants at the Water Board.

Last month, the Opposition revealed that the Water Board had spent \$100 million in 12 months on consultants.

The Opposition spokeswoman for planning and environment, Pam Allen, said yesterday that the Premier was wasting more money commissioning a report that was an attempt to disprove Opposition claims.

Ms Allen said the office of public management intervention was a slap in the face for the Minister for Housing, Joe Schupp, who told the Parliament nothing was wrong with the Water Board's use of consultants.

"The Premier's decision to commission this report shows how out of touch he is with what is going on," she said in a statement.

She said the report would be used in debate on the Water Board when Parliament resumed.

Alice airport to go international

AYERS ROCK: The Northern Territory Government is stepping up attempts to have Alice Springs designated as Australia's next international air gateway.

The chief minister of the Territory, Marshall Perron, said tourism growth to the red centre would soon demand that the town's airport be upgraded to international status.

He said plans already existed for 22 overseas charter flights in to Alice Springs between November, 1992, and March, 1993.

Mr Perron said international air services were vital to the development of the Territory's tourism industry.

He said despite the lingering effects of the domestic pilots' dispute and "the worst recession in 60 years" preliminary figures showed visitor numbers to the Territory increased 3.5 per cent last year.

Reduce wait for dole, says lobby group

MELBOURNE: Federal Cabinet must reduce the waiting period for the dole when it delivers its jobs statement this week, Victoria's leading social-welfare lobby group said yesterday.

The executive director of the Victorian Council of Social Service, Robert Hudson, said welfare groups were experiencing huge increases in demand for emergency relief, often over 100 per cent, and the waiting period for unemployment payments was a direct contributor to the demand.

"In many areas of Victoria, welfare agencies have run out of emergency funds, despite the Federal Government providing a recent increase of \$780,000 in emergency relief funding."

"People in desperate situations are being turned away," Mr Hudson said.

"Having paid their taxes all their working lives, people unaccountably enough are being shocked and dismayed to discover they have to wait between three and seven weeks before getting their first unemployment payment," Mr Hudson said.

School leavers faced a wait of up to 13 weeks and those without children have a further 18-week wait before becoming eligible for rent assistance.

"Waiting periods don't save much money in the overall Budget context but they do have a drastic effect on the people subject to them," Mr Hudson said.

He said the Federal Government was duty-bound to maintain a social security system which provided adequate protection against poverty.

"The time has come when the Government needs to show some compassion and abolish, or at least reduce waiting periods."

Mr Hudson said the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, in his jobs statement this Thursday, should:

- Abolish the standard one-week waiting period for the Job Search Allowance.

- Abolish the four-week liquid-assets waiting period.

- Reduce from 13 to 6 weeks the waiting period facing school leavers under 21.

- Abolish the 18-week wait for rent assistance.

Libs demand an answer

The Liberal Party will take the ACT Department of Health to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal if it has not been given a decision on a freedom-of-information appeal by Tuesday afternoon.

The Liberal health spokesman, Gary Humphries, made an FOI request late in October in an attempt to get details of a controversial call to the ACT Ambulance Service made in July. He had requested all the relevant documents, including any briefing notes on the incident given to the

Minister for Health, Wayne Berry. A spokesman for Mr Humphries said last night that no briefing notes had been included in the information supplied initially by the Department; nor was there any indication that the notes had been withheld. In question time in the Legislative Assembly, Mr Berry had admitted that there were briefing notes and Mr Humphries had lodged an appeal. The Department was required to answer the appeal within 14 days and had failed to do so.

Thieves managed to put a dampener on a very special day for 10-year-old Sharla Allen of Kambah and her family last weekend.

Last Friday night, the night before her mother and stepfather Jeff Lyons were married, thieves broke into her grandfather's car outside their Kambah house and stole his pain-killers.

Mr Lyons senior, who has inoperable cancer, was visiting Canberra from Batemans Bay for his son Jeff's wedding.

Jeff Lyons and his daughter Sharla Allen, who says people shouldn't steal things people need, like their medicine.

Girl's plea for thieves to think first

Thieves managed to put a dampener on a very special day for 10-year-old Sharla Allen of Kambah and her family last weekend.

Last Friday night, the night before her mother and stepfather Jeff Lyons were married, thieves broke into her grandfather's car outside their Kambah house and stole his pain-killers.

Mr Lyons senior, who has inoperable cancer, was visiting Canberra from Batemans Bay for his son Jeff's wedding.

Sharla rang *The Canberra Times* yesterday "off her own bat" according to Jeff, to ask that "people ought to think before they do these horrible things."

"People shouldn't steal things that people badly need, like their medicines," Sharla said.

Jeff said he and his wife's children, aged 2, 8, 9 and 10, were "really disappointed, particularly being our wedding day. I guess I expect these sort of things, but it really upset the children."

Mr Lyons said his father had gone

out to his car on Saturday morning to get his pain-killers, to discover that thieves had broken in overnight and stolen them as well as his camera equipment for the wedding and other things he had left in the car.

"The pain-killers were prescription. With the wedding on and everything, we were very lucky that the lady next door had some pain-killers that he was able to take until he could get to the doctor to get a new prescription."

Picture: GRAHAM TIDY

Real estate, not high tech, our boom

While the world's leading economic powers have spent the last 15 years nurturing their high-tech and computer industries with remarkable success, the boom industry in Australia for the same period has been real estate.

Although Australian high-tech manufacturing has grown substantially, it is still well behind the levels of other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, according to a series of discussion papers issued today.

The papers, entitled *Science, Technology and Industrial Development*, were presented at a meeting of the Economic Planning Advisory Council in September.

The council's chief scientist, Professor Ralph Slatyer, suggested that the drive of the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, for a "clever country" was having some effect.

He said industrial competitiveness in advanced countries depended increasingly on technological innovation.

"It is important the economic environment in Australia encourages existing enterprises to build skills and technology within Australia and for new-start-up firms and new foreign firms to become established within Australia," he said.

Professor Slatyer stressed the importance of developing a solid base of skills and technology.

He said skills and technology grew in the process of use whereas resources, Australia's traditional wealth base, were simply depleted.

Levels of research and development in Australian manufacturing industries were low by OECD standards but were high in the export-oriented mining and agriculture industries. Those industries had benefited from in-house R and D and from work undertaken by the publicly funded R and D institutions, principally universities and the CSIRO.

Professor Slatyer said R and D outlay in Australian industry had increased dramatically only over the last decade.

It had begun from a very low base — only 0.52 per cent of GDP in 1989-90 — compared with other OECD countries.

Council economists Frank Di Giorgio and Tony Jowett said in their paper that the best prospects for Australian high tech was in niche markets, principally in areas where it was already strong: mining, agriculture, telecommunications and computer software.

According to OECD figures cited by the coun-

cil, the top growth industry in Australia for the 15 years to the mid 80s was real-estate services, then communications, utilities, non-ferrous metals and instruments.

In Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the UK and USA, the top growth industry was computers.

Speaking recently, Mr Jowett said the real-estate speculation "bubble" was cyclical, presenting the prospect of easy money to investors — but there was hope that perceptions and ground rules had changed.

The council paper cites a number of impediments to R and D and high-tech industry — the shortage of appropriate skills, which depends on the education system; the perennial problem of shortage of development finance; tax; the corporate regulation system; and the shortage of innovative management.

On the plus side, the Government has introduced a number of changes — the 150 per cent tax concession for R and D, the Co-operative Research Centres program, industry offsets program, and grants for industrial R and D.

From the industry viewpoint the chairman of Memtec Ltd, Denis Hanley, reflected on a type

of cultural cringe which, he said, meant that there were few Australian companies that strove to be world leaders.

He said only those companies striving for international leadership designed new and improved processes.

Memtec was formed to commercialise University of NSW research into water filtration, a technology with vast potential in industrial purification.

It is now more than half non-Australian-owned and is one of the top 10 filtration and purification businesses world-wide, with subsidiaries in the US, Europe, Japan and Australia.

The company was recently at the centre of a row with the Sydney Water Board over a pilot sewage-filtration plant.

Mr Hanley said the Water Board was seeking to impose unreasonably high standards.

Mr Hanley, the chairman of the Industry Research and Development Board, said in his council paper that there had been historically a significant bias by Australian industry toward taking technology from overseas and applying that proved technology to perceived Australian needs.

ACT Cabinet to look at boxing laws

The ACT Cabinet will soon consider legislation to regulate boxing in Canberra.

A spokesman for the office of Sport and Recreation said that claims by the Residents Rally leader, Bernard Collaery, that the boxing legislation had been dropped, were incorrect.

Mr Collaery said last week that the ACT lagged behind international standards designed to protect amateur boxers because there was no legislation regulating the sport.

He had called for the phased elimination of boxing because, "it can result in death and produced an alarming incidence of chronic brain injury."

The departmental spokesman said that, although the ACT followed NSW guidelines when conducting bouts, no legislation had been in place and, therefore, nothing could stop "a bare knuckle match if you wanted it."

The legislation was designed "to protect the foolhardy" and would cover everything from the size of gloves to having a doctor present at professional bouts.

The Liberal sport spokesman, Bill Stefaniak, said that calls to ban boxing showed a "total lack of knowledge of the way the sport is conducted."

"Boxing in the ACT is taught and controlled by the Police Boys Clubs and trainers in authorised gyms," Mr Stefaniak said.

"It is done under strict supervision and according to strict guidelines which maintain a safe environment for the development of well-disciplined boxers with an appropriate sporting attitude."

Mr Stefaniak said proper safeguards and regulations were essential in any contact sport, but "in terms of real injuries in the ACT, fewer occur in the sport of boxing than result from football."

The Canberra Region. It's a Riot.

In 1860, the tranquility of the beautiful valley known as "Lambing Flat", was broken by the discovery of gold in the creek behind where Young Historical Society's present day museum stands.

The stakes were high and tempers were short. The white miners so deeply resented the Chinese miners that



Artist's impression of the historic "Roll Up" flag, carried in the 1861 riots and now on display at the Lambing Flat Folk Museum, Young.

early in 1861, riots were "organized" to drive the Orientals from the goldfields. By order of an Act of Parliament passed in November of that year, the Chinese were officially restricted to a portion of Blackguard Gully from then on.

The Canberra Region. There's much more to tell.



Proudly Supporting the Canberra Region