



Mr Whitlam yesterday . . . 'much more workable'

of Parliament and not the people," he said. "It would make for a much more workable situation."

The 76-year-old Mr Whitlam, prime minister from 1972 to 1975, unveiled his republican model in a wide-ranging address to about 400 party faithful that also featured:

A CALL for the abolition of the office of State governors, branded by Mr Whitlam as "an indulgence"

A VITRIOLIC attack on the former Labor government in Western Australia, with accusations State ministers "coveted their federal counterparts over Aboriginal affairs policy and criticism of former

Among other conservative leaders, the creation of a republic has been described as inevitable by the South Australian Leader of the Opposition, Mr Brown, the leader of the Liberal Party in the ACT, Mr Trevor

West Australian health minister Mr Keith Wilson.

PROPOSALS to recast Australians' national identity with a range of initiatives, including leaving the Western European and Other States Group in the United Nations.

And the man who became the unifying symbol of the republican movement after the dismissal of his government in 1975 by then governor-general Sir John Kerr made it clear he believed an Australian

republic was inevitable.

Mr Whitlam said most migrants felt no affinity to the monarchy, while few native-born Australians maintained links with the churches of England and Scotland, to which the Queen of Australia had to belong.

"As a fifth-generation Australian and a descendant of migrants from England and Scotland I am grateful to the British people who brought a single language to this continent" and installed institutions which we have the jurisdiction to develop ourselves," he said in the oration.

"I respect the Queen — I have apologised to her for recommending a representative who concealed his intentions from both her and me."

"Our Constitution enshrines a monarchical system of which the Queen is not a part. She cannot exercise powers in Australia (and she cannot

would be overworked."

"A majority of members is a majority of members, which ever way you look at it," he said.

Echoing comments made during the election campaign by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Howe, Mr Whitlam said State governors represented an unnecessary drain on public resources.

"I would have to say that the Queen of Britain does not have to perform as many trivial functions as the (State) governors or even the Governor-General," he said.

"It is an indulgence."

The Republican debate — Page 11

Witness saw naked Jews being executed

AN American witness told the war crimes trial of pensioner Ivan Polyukhovich yesterday he had seen naked Jews being executed near Serniki in Ukraine in 1942.

Mr Abraham Dinerman, a retired poultry farmer from Rhode Island, told the South Australian Supreme Court in Adelaide he had witnessed the shootings from a distance while hiding in a barn.

Mr Dinerman, 65, said several hours later he emerged from his hiding spot and walked past the scene.

There was blood on the ground and the top section of an area of disturbed earth was moving.

Polyukhovich, 77, has pleaded not guilty to two charges relating to incidents near, Nazi-occupied Serniki during 1942.

He is charged with being knowingly involved in the murder of between 553 and 850 people known as the Jews of Serniki in 1942, and also with the involvement in the murders of a Jewish woman and two children also from Serniki between August and September 1942, during the German occupation.

The prosecution alleges the accused was familiarly known as Ivanekcho.

In 1990, Australian investigators exhumed a mass grave used to bury the dead in a forest outside Serniki.

Mr Dinerman, whose family operated a grocery store in Serniki, said before the shooting he had seen groups of Jews being marched along a road by German soldiers.

Earlier in his testimony Mr Dinerman said he also had seen another Jew shot in a potato field near Serniki.

Polyukhovich is the first Australian to face trial under local war crimes legislation.

Another man, Heinrich Wagner, also an Adelaide pensioner, has been committed for trial.

The two war crimes trials are likely to be the only ones held in this country.

The Polyukhovich hearing is expected to continue for at least another four weeks.

AAP

Hoover fiasco forces clean-up

It was supposed to be the

ICAC urges scrutiny of PS jobs for politicians

By D.D. McNICOLL

THE third and final report into the Metherell affair by the Independent Commission Against Corruption has recommended a major overhaul of Public Service recruitment practices in NSW.

The report recommends the establishment of a committee of eminent persons to scrutinise any appointment of a former member of Parliament within two years of the MP quitting politics, to a senior Public Service position.

It also recommends that there be a statutory ban on ministerial involvement in appointments to non-executive positions within the Public Service and that there be a statutory requirement for all jobs within the Public Service to be filled on the basis of merit.

Overhaul of practices

The ICAC inquiry was triggered by the resignation from the NSW Parliament last year of former education minister Dr Terry Metherell and his subsequent appointment to a senior position with the Environment Protection Authority.

Dr Metherell quit the EPA post, but the then NSW premier, Mr Nick Greiner, was forced to resign amid claims by the NSW Opposition of "jobs for the boys".

The first ICAC report into what became known as "the Metherell affair" found that Mr Greiner, who could not be contacted for comment yesterday, had acted corruptly within the meaning of the ICAC Act.

However, the Court of Appeal later ruled that ICAC commissioner Mr Ian Temby QC had exceeded his authority in reaching that con-

clusions were not formally tendered to the hearing.

Mr Temby says the third report made no reference to those submissions as "to do so would be unfair to the named persons".

The main recommendations of the report are:

THERE should be a statutory requirement for all public sector jobs at every level to be filled on the basis of merit.

THERE should be a statutory requirement for every public sector job, other than temporary jobs, at every level to be the subject of a public advertisement and to be filled following a merit selection process.

CHIEF executive officer appointments should be made by the Governor on the recommendation of Cabinet following a merit-determined recommendation to the minister involved.

AN independent committee of eminent persons should be established to scrutinise the process followed for filling each public sector job where one of the applicants was a member of Parliament within the preceding two years.

THERE should be a statutory ban on ministerial involvement in the making of appointments to non-executive positions.

GOVERNMENT should accept that all judicial appointments will be made on the basis of merit and that the process followed be documented and published.

The report says the possibility of corruption in recruitment processes within the NSW Public Service is "real" and the possibility of the "corrupt involvement" of politicians cannot be ignored.

"The Government said last night it has no problem with some of the recommendations made by ICAC."

But the Government did have reservations concerning the recommendation "for every Public Service job to be

Grand plans for Wollongong Whiz



Gardner at Phillip Island yesterday . . . with bikes, if you make a mistake it hurts — Picture: GRAHAM CROUCH

By MICHELLE GUNN

FORMER world motorcycle champion and Australian sports hero Wayne Gardner returned to his beloved Phillip Island raceway yesterday to prepare for the third round of the Shell Australian Touring Car championship on Sunday.

But while the "Wollongong Whiz" was happy to speak to the media about his recent performances on the touring car circuit, he gave a strong impression his heart longed for the speed, excitement and glamour of international grand prix competition.

Almost seven months after announcing his retirement from the 500cc motorcycle circuit, Gardner is being lured to Formula One racing, the sport synonymous with Monaco, his new hometown.

And while he is concerned he may be too old to begin a Formula One career, he is clearly looking forward to testing a Lotus in England in June this year.

"I don't know really where my future is going to lead me," he said yesterday.

"I took up touring car racing because I thought it was the best thing for me at my age."

Winning on two wheels . . . This weekend will be the first time Gardner has raced at Phillip Island since winning the 1989 and 1990 Australian



Although ranked ninth in the Touring Car Championship after the first two rounds, Gardner's early performances in his Holden Racing Team Commodore V8 have surprised many fans who estimated it would take him a year to adapt to car racing.

In the second round of the competition in Tasmania last month, Gardner won the three-lap dash to decide the starting order of the fastest six qualifiers ahead of seasoned professionals such as Peter Brock, Alan Jones, John Bowe and Dick Johnson.

He failed to duplicate the success in the main race, tangling with Alan Jones in the first of the day's two 26-lap heats. But many enthusiasts of the sport believe he will become a favourite as the championship progresses.

Gardner is keen not to upset touring car drivers by giving anyone the impression the sport is not exciting enough for him, but admits he misses the physical challenge of motorcycle racing.

"In the car sport it is 70 per cent the car and just 30 per cent the rider whereas in motorcycles it is exactly the opposite — 70 per cent rider."

Some lawyers believe the Tasmanian prohibition on sexual acts against the order of nature also applies to oral and anal intercourse, even between married heterosexual couples.

The Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group has referred the law to the United Nations Human Rights Committee in the hope of a finding in six months that the law discriminates on the grounds of sexuality and that it will empower the Commonwealth to override the State.

However, prompted by The Observer article and the passage of a new HIV-AIDS preventative measures Bill, the Minister for Health, Mr Groom, has declared he at least is ready to reform the law.

Yesterday the Premier, Mr Groom, foreshadowed Cabinet consideration.

Mr Groom's support for reform is significant. Even on the Premier's assessment, his is the key voice in the parliamentary liberal party.

"I have been ready for some time to see a change and to see us abolish, delete, remove these clauses relating to homosexual acts," Mr Groom said.

"But I am certainly not ready to crusade on this because I am at a stage where I believe the art of politics is the art of the possible and I don't believe the Legislative Council (the State's conservative, independent Upper House) is ready yet to accept this reform."

Nonetheless, I am heartened by the fact that I believe the numbers within my own party are growing and I am encouraged by that."

The Legislative Council's most vehement opponent of reform, Launceston MP Mr George Brookes, is quoted in The Observer article as saying the Liberal Government should tell the United Nations "to go to buggery".

The Government's softening on homosexual law reform was welcomed yesterday by the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group.

Mother breaks down in court

By STEVE DOW

THE mother of murdered six-year-old Victorian Sheree Beasley wept and shouted "he killed my daughter" yesterday when a man faced court charged with the killing.

Robert Arthur Selby Lowe, 55, of Florence Avenue, West Rosebud, was remanded by Chief Magistrate Ms Sally Brown in Melbourne Magistrates Court.

He will face a committal hearing on June 23 on four charges, including murder and kidnap.

Sheree was kidnapped while riding her bicycle on the Nepean Highway at Rosebud south of Melbourne, on June 28, 1991.

Her partly clad body was found in a drain near the Mornington-Flinders road at Red Hill on September 26 that year.

Sheree's mother, Ms Kerri Greenhill, 27, broke down and wept yesterday as counsel argued for tight security for Lowe, arrested by seven detectives at a St Kilda backpackers' hostel about 6am yesterday.

"He should be put in with all the other prisoners," she yelled across the court room

APR
1
1993