

Brisbane radio station has been brought forward almost a year.

Mr Hayden is taking action against Wego Communications Pty Ltd, licensee of 4KQ, for alleged defamation arising from a radio debate in July on whether he should be appointed Governor-General.

Senator Richard Alston (Lib, Vic) told the Senate during Question Time yesterday that Mr Hayden had obtained an order from the Queensland Supreme Court speeding up the hearing of the case so that it could be disposed of before he took up his appointment as Governor-General on February 16.

The trial has been listed for January 31. In the normal course, it would not have been heard until the end of next year.

Mr Hayden applied for the expedited hearing on constitutional and protocol grounds.

Senator Alston said it was a blatant case of queue-jumping at the expense of less influential litigants.

He said at least one of the issues in the trial would turn on Mr Hayden's credibility.

"This desperate pursuit of one last dollar" placed the Queensland Supreme Court in an intolerable position, Senator Alston said. If Mr Hayden's credibility were called into question, it would be inappropriate for him to assume vice-regal office.

He called on the Government to tell Mr Hayden his determination to pursue the matter through the courts could only lower the esteem felt by many Australians for the office of Governor-General.

The Government Leader in the Senate, Senator Burt, said the action was serious and included an allegation that Mr Hayden had kicked a person to death.

He said the merits of the case were a matter for determination by the Queensland Supreme Court, and not the Senate.

That clearly indicates how silly your question is, and it also indicates something about your motivation in this place," he told Senator Alston.

By TOM BURTON

CANBERRA: The Auditor-General has called for the abolition of his own office unless there are major changes to enable the office to scrutinise properly the Federal bureaucracy.

The Auditor-General, Mr John Taylor, called yesterday for sweeping changes to the audit office which recognised the Federal Government's new commercial approach to public administration.

These include funding the audit office from the budget of the Parliament, as is done in Canada, rather than from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and stopping private accounting firms auditing government agencies.

Mr Taylor said changing the funding would mean the office was not so dependent on the "goodwill of the executive as advised by the auditee".

Giving evidence to the Public Accounts Committee, Mr Taylor said he believed there was a need for an effective and viable audit office.

"But if the executive or the Parliament is not convinced, it may be preferable for all to cut pretence and abolish the office rather than have the public remain under the illusion that an effective audit office would continue far into the future," Mr Taylor said.

"It would not, in my view, if the status quo remains."

Mr Taylor was particularly critical of moves to appoint

private auditors instead of the Auditor-General's office, which he said would weaken the public accountability to Parliament of some government business enterprises and marketing authorities.

Earlier this year the Government took away many of the restrictions on most of its biggest authorities such as Telecom, Qantas, ORC and Australia Post.

"My argument rests on the peculiarities of the public sector which, even where it is in competition, even where taxpayers' funds are not directly involved, and even where it is on the stock exchange, is not and never will be a replica of private enterprise," Mr Taylor told the committee.

"Not the least because, like it or not, different standards are ultimately expected when the crunch comes politically."

Last week, three senior ministers angrily criticised the international telephone company OTC for granting salary increases outside the Government's guidelines.

The Auditor-General said with audit-work for the Government's largest authorities to be thrown open to competition to the big private firms, "one might anticipate that there will be increasing pressure on the audit office to pull its punches..."

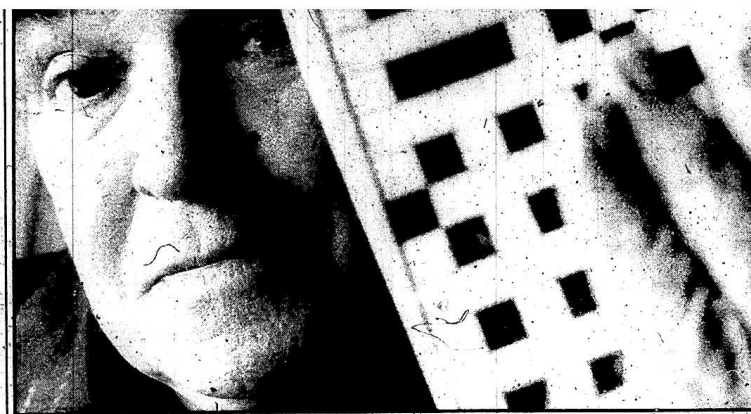
Mr Taylor also called for his office to be able to abandon public Service organisational structures and to have more flexible remuneration.

Call for import of sugar

MELBOURNE: The Federal Government is under intense pressure to lift the embargo on sugar imports following a decision by CSR sugar workers in Melbourne to stay on strike.

The Confectionery Manufacturers of Australia (CMA) again asked the Federal Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Kerin, yesterday to allow imports from CSR's New Zealand refinery, despite the Queensland Government's refusal to lift the ban.

The executive officer of CMA, Mr Stuart Spencer, said the industry was devastated by the continuation of the strike, now in its fourth week. Which has halted sugar production at CSR's refinery at Yarraville. A lifting of the embargo would enable a minor recovery, he said.



Crossword compiler Mr Lindsey Browne ... 1 million clues and 23,000 puzzles to his credit.

By KAREN PAKULA

It can be frustrating and depressing, a cause for headaches, insomnia and despair. It's black and white but going grey: the modern crossword is 75 years old this week.

Addicts who have wasted weeks waiting out a clue that can only be found in a 12-volume set of the Oxford Dictionary may be disheartened to know that a cryptic crossword takes an expert compiler only 20 hours to create.

Mr Lindsey Browne, one of the *Herald's* seven crossword compilers has more than 1 million clues and 23,000 crosswords to his credit.

"It is a bit of a jostle every day," said 73-year-old Mr Browne, who adopted the art in 1940.

Starting with a blank grid, he puts a black square on every second square, on every second line. From there, the puzzle begins and clues such as "What is Sherlock playing

tennis? (answer: Holmes a Court)" are born.

If there is a dispute about a solution or a clue, the puzzles page phone will ring all day.

Crosswords have been causing controversy since they first appeared in the *New York World* newspaper on December 21, 1913.

In South Australia in 1923, the publication of crosswords for small prizes was banned, along with a popular dance of the time called the lucky spot waltz, after it was found they came under the South Australian Lotteries and Gaming Act.

In 1944, the *London Daily Telegraph's* crossword editors were questioned at length by British intelligence following the appearance of codenames of various landing sites for the D-Day operation in France in the crosswords.

"I've been up for bad taste and racism," said our own Mr Browne,

whose clue "Town where a black takes a walk (answer: Cooaambee)" attracted criticism.

On another occasion he offended religious readers by describing the "heavenly host" as "a dreamboat who throws good parties".

It therefore comes as no surprise that many crossword authors prefer using pseudonyms.

Although the crossword as we know it only came to light in 1913, anagrams and other more simple forms can be traced back to the Greek philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras.

Crossword puzzles took off in Great Britain in 1924, although *The Times*, whose cryptic crossword is clearly gaining worldwide renown, refused to get involved in this trivial pastime until the 1930s, when crosswords were clearly accepted by the populace.

Before long the plain crossword

began to lose its challenge, and cryptic clues emerged with teasers such as "Clue: H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O. Answer: water" (the chemical formula for water is H₂O).

The craze took off from there. In the 1930s, the *Herald* was publishing a crossword once a week, although by 1945, it was appearing daily.

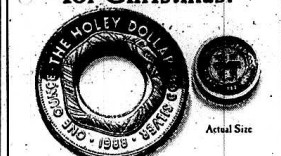
Oddly, the cryptic crossword has never taken off in the United States — the country of origin — as it has here and in England.

Over the years, the puzzles have become more complex, so that the issue of cluamanship has become a debating point among the word-mills who make them up.

But not every puzzle is a brain-buster. Try this one-letter, one-square crossword devised by Spike Milligan: ("I across) the first letter of the alphabet. (1 down) the indefinite article."

Photos by STEVE CHRISTO

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Blue Rhythms

Public Hearing

Evening in the Amphitheatre

Greek Dancers

6-9 p.m.

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

Lunchtime in the Amphitheatre

Jazzmin (Jazz Fusion)

Hawks Roller Skating

Evening at the Tree

Carol Singing with the

Silver Army Band.

From 7.30 p.m.

PRESENTED BY SYDNEY CITY COUNCIL

Tate defends war crime interviews

CANBERRA: The Minister for Justice, Senator Tate, confirmed yesterday that about 30 interviews had been conducted in relation to war crimes allegations.

Speaking during debate on the War Crimes Bill in the Senate, Senator Tate said the Special Investigations Unit could not carry out its task without interviewing people against whom allegations had been made.

He said the information obtained during the interviews was used to categorise the unit's files and determine their priority.

"The fact is that the SIU is not set up as some band of zealots seeking to gather evidence which will invariably lead to the charging of a particular person against whom a serious allegation has been made," he said.

The investigators collected all relevant information, including that capable of clearing suspects of blame, and as a result several investigations had been suspended.

Interviews started in September last year but less than 30 had been conducted, he said.

Senator Tate said the investigators were highly skilled in establishing questions of fact, and were not concerned with the niceties of international law.

He said usually two, but sometimes one officer carried out the interviews in the most open way.

They made appointments to see people in country areas, but sometimes conducted interviews without appointments if they found someone at home.

An Opposition amendment to remove Australians from the operation of the bill was defeated yesterday by two votes.

The Government has opposed any moves to exclude Australians, claiming it would be unfair and undemocratic to "quarantine" one class of people from the effect of the legislation.

However, it has proposed amendments which effectively exclude most Australians, such as confining the scope of the legislation to crimes committed in Europe and allowing defendants to use military necessity as a defence.

Debate on the bill is expected to continue today.

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Climpson back at Seven

By ROBIN OLIVER

The veteran newsreader Roger Climpson has been called back to present the main news bulletin on Channel Seven — seven years after losing the job.

Climpson, who starts on January 23, replaces Richard Zachariah, who is negotiating his future with the network.

Co-presenter Ann Sanders has been retained, and will share the newsreading spot with Climpson.

Announcing the appointment, Seven's news chief, Mr Bob Johnson, said Zachariah and Sanders had succeeded in lifting the ratings in their season together, but that it was a five-year job to establish a winning combination on scratch.

Obviously, Mr Johnson and Seven felt they could not wait that long, particularly as Seven's six o'clock hour, with the successful drama serial *Home and Away*, was running before the revamped half-hour news, had started out a slow mover in the ratings, and only began to show its potential strength by the end of the season.

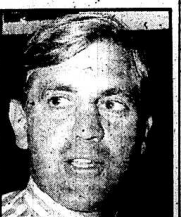
distance of Channel 9 and its winning combination of Brian Henderson's news and Jana Wendt's *A Current Affair*, Seven was still only finishing second, a position the commands little support among TV executives.

"When the opportunity arose to acquire the services of the most successful news presenter in the station's history, it was too good to pass by," Mr Johnson said yesterday.

Mr Johnson said yesterday that Climpson was back at Seven because he had been the sole presenter. His most recent regular TV appearances were with GBC



IN: Roger Climpson



OUT: Richard Zachariah

shows that Sydney people still regarded Climpson highly.

He said the network was negotiating with Zachariah to take part in an upgraded news service during the morning business program *TV-AM*.

Roger Climpson last read the news on Seven in 1981 with Ross Symonds, though for 12 years before then he had been the sole presenter. His most recent regular TV appearances were with GBC

group in Geneva by secretariat delegates including Mr Coe.

According to Mr Coe, the proposal was strongly endorsed by the former secretary of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Charles Perkins, and officials with the Australian diplomatic mission in Geneva.

A spokesman for Mr Perkins said yesterday that he had agreed to relay the proposal to the Australian Government.

The proposal was accepted by the working group, which had originally planned to hold the meeting in Geneva, and this was noted in the minutes of the group's August meeting, of which, the *Herald* has a copy.

Discussions initiated by Australian officials in Geneva with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, led to the proposal being forwarded to the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Hand, for a decision.

A spokeswoman for Mr Hand told the *Herald* last night that a decision was not made in time, and no message had been sent to the UN.

It was a question of timing, and it had been felt during preliminary talks on the seminar between department officials and Mr Hand that the January launch of the new Aboriginal and Torres Islander Commission would stretch departmental resources to the limit.

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said it had not been involved in making a decision on the seminar.

Mr Coe claims he twice approached Mr Hand after the August meeting to lobby for the seminar and was told that the proposal had also been referred to the Prime Minister's Department.

"The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister should have involved themselves in such an important decision," Mr Coe said.

"Aboriginal people will miss out on the chance to learn much from many acclaimed experts in the field of human rights and indigenous peoples."

"The situation shows an appalling lack of judgment on the part of Prime Minister's Department and Foreign Affairs to rightly elevate the rights of this country's indigenous people."

The seminar will now be held in Geneva between January 16-20.

Lotto results

Winning numbers in Week 51 Lotto drawn last night were: 1, 14, 17, 28, 32, 36. Supplementary: 18. Prize money: \$2,462,837. First division, \$1,108,277; second and third, \$492,567; fourth division, \$309,426. The six winning numbers (no supplementary) in the second chance Lotto draw were: 4, 7, 8, 19, 35, 39. First division, \$1 million, (only one division in second chance draw).

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PUBLIC HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION CHRISTMAS 1988

CHRISTMAS DAY
Sunday, 25th December, 1988
No Domestic or Trade Refuse Service

BOXING DAY
Monday, 26th December, 1988
Residential Areas: Domestic Refuse will be collected on Monday, 26th December, 1988 within the area under the control of the City of Sydney.

Trade Refuse: Trade Refuse will be collected as usual within the City of Sydney.

Gazetted Christmas Day
Tuesday, 27th December, 1988
Residential Areas: A Domestic Refuse collection service will be provided only to that area of the City currently receiving a seven day per week service, being generally described as the Kings Cross/Potts Point area.

Trade Refuse: Trade Refuse will be collected as usual.

L.P. CARTER, O.B.E., TOWN CLERK.