

from the Press Office

SUMMARY OF "A.M."

The Federal Government's amendments to the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission will go into the Senate this afternoon with the Government determined not to make any alterations to the legislation. That is despite the concern expressed by one deputy president and 25 commissioners. Representatives of the commission will be meeting with the President of the Commission, Sir John Moore and representatives of the deputy presidents to discuss their opposition to the Bill. Later today the amendments will go before the Senate, traditionally the chamber where Government backbenchers have been able to force changes to legislation, however, while some Senators are likely to be critical of the amendments, it is unlikely that any will go as far as crossing the floor. The weekly joint Party will be held this morning and backbench dissatisfaction is expected to be dealt with there. Potentially more damaging for the Government is the meeting in Sydney today of representatives of the Commissioners Association with the President of the Association and some of the 8 deputy Presidents. Should any of the other deputy Presidents support the 25 Commissioners, the Government could be faced with what Mr Hayden described yesterday as a full scale revolt. In other developments, the matter of Justice Staples' letter was raised at a council meeting of the New South Wales Bar Association yesterday. It is understood that there are plans for a motion to be moved calling on the Association to express its support for Justice Staples. In the committee stages of the ASIO debate in the House of Representatives last night, former Labor Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr Cameron, alleged that ASIO had tapped the private telephone of Mr Justice Staples. Mr Cameron who appointed Mr Staples to the Commission said that he had been informed that the tap had been taking place for nearly three weeks with the Government's knowledge. The Attorney-General's office had no comment to make on the allegations.

The sharpest, most immediate reaction to Western Australia's new industrial legislation has come from the moderate unions who claim that their very survival is at stake. According to the assistant secretary of the Clerks' Union the legislation will merely polarise all of the union movement. However, the Minister for Labour and Industry, Mr Ray O'Connor, says the public will agree with the State Industrial Commission having more power to intervene in disputes.

In London, the Zimbabwe-Rhodesia conference has concluded its first full session without the Patriotic Front. Lord Carrington had earlier issued an ultimatum that the Front could only rejoin the Lancaster House talks if they agree to Britain's draft constitution proposals. In calling for a summit of the 'front line African states', President Nyerere has played down the Lancaster House deadlock, but in London, ambassadors of the front line states have endorsed the statement by the Commonwealth Secretary General, Mr Ramphal, that any settlement of Zimbabwe can only be reached with the agreement of the Patriotic Front. Mr Ramphal said that when the Commonwealth leaders met in Lusaka, they did not envisage an agreement that was not endorsed by all sides. Mr Fraser played a leading role in organising the Lancaster House talks, though when asked to commen

on Mr Ramphal's statement, he declined, saying he was not yet briefed by the Foreign Affairs Department.

President Nyerere has called an emergency meeting with the front line states and it is clear that he is doing everything possible to avoid a complete breakdown of the London talks with the inevitable result that the guerilla war being waged by the Patriotic Front could drag on possibly for more years than anyone would like to anticipate. In spite of this obvious concern for the successful outcome of the London talks, it is not really clear what President Nyerere hopes to achieve by calling the emergency meeting, particularly since he believes the dead lock is the result of a simple misunderstanding over the question of payment of compensation of white Rhodesian farmers who might have their land taken from them by a black majority government. Nyerere says the Patriotic Front objects to paying this compensation if the British government expects the new black majority to provide the money, but he says, the Patriotic Front accepts the principal if Britain is prepared to put up the money in the same way as it provided money for white farmers in Kenya to be compensated for a loss of their land after independence.

The decision by Libya and Iran to boost oil prices has caused dismay in the United States. The influential Saudi Oil Minister feels that Iran and Libya, by their unilateral action, had created a chaotic situation, and did not know what the consequences would be. He implied that the other oil exporters could well be forced into joining the price rise move when they held their next meeting in December. State Department spokesman, Mr Hodding Carter, says each time there is another turn in oil prices, world inflation is fed, and that market conditions at this time do not justify such an increase.

New York: It is now a week since the Mayor threatened to broadcast the names of men convicted of using prostitutes but it is felt that prostitution is intimately connected with organised crime and that it is the far more dangerous associated evils and violence that are really the target.

The fishing agreement between Australia and Japan is to be signed in Canberra today. One puzzling aspect of this controversial agreement has been the sudden change of heart by the Queensland government, where Premier Petersen now says he is in full agreement with the signing. However, David Thomson, Federal National Country Party member, has expressed reservations. Says the agreement does not go far enough to protect the marlin and that we need a much bigger buffer zone in which the longliners will not be able to fish.

Premier Doug Lowe has promised a full public debate before any final decision is made to flood part of Tasmania's last remaining wilderness areas for a hydro electric scheme, but as far as the director of the Wilderness Association is concerned, the public has already made up its mind.

The President of Pakistan has announced the indefinite postponement of the general elections scheduled for November 17, saying that martial law will be enforced in its true sense.

A meeting of senior Western lawyers and politicians in London has concluded that the plight of Soviet Jews has remained unchanged, and even worsened in the past five years. Australia's representative at the meeting was Senator John Wieldon. Interviewed.

---o0o---