

PRIME MINISTERMONDAY, 23 MARCH 1981

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S "NEWSVOICE"

Poland's Free Trade Union leaders will be meeting in a few hours time to discuss the latest moves in their threatened national strike. Talks with the Government have broken down and the union will meet to discuss the issue. Report from Mark Colvin.

The National Executive of the Australian Labor Party has been meeting all day in Canberra in a bid to solve the Party's internal problems in Queensland. The Executive is expected to release a series of recommendations within the hour. Report from Barrie Cassidy.

Mrs Flo Bjelke-Petersen arrived in Canberra today intent on dispelling her image as a scone maker and becoming, as she put it, a political person. Report from Greg Powell.

Australia's award winning actress Judy Davis says there is a great future for Australian films as long as they are made on universal themes. Judy Davis has won the British Academy Award for Best Actress and Best Newcomer.

The Annual Thorn Awards presented in Canberra today saw a clash between the Minister for Communications and the major award winner, Mr Laurie Oakes. Report from Heather Ewart.

Heather Ewart

The clash was over Mr Oake's leaking of the last Federal Budget on which he did a report for channel 10 television news. Mr Sinclair had earlier stressed the importance and power of television news which he described as a rough draft of history being caught on the television screen. Despite Mr Sinclair's praise of the fairness and professionalism of Australian television journalists, he did not hesitate to state that he did not agree with the major Thorn award being presented to Mr Oakes for his budget report.

Mr Sinclair

Certainly, in all we have a very professional group of people who are here represented today whom all of us a politicians or elsewhere in the public forum respect. Certainly, no one of us would expect any of you to be eunuchs in the political zoo. But there are aspects of political involvement that from the Government and Opposition benches alike we criticise from time to time. Those documents that fall off the back of the truck from the other side tend to be used in Parliament and they tend to be used by the media. The major award is for such an occasion. I respect very much the fact that the panel of judges as an independent body and I really do not envy their task one little bit. I respect very much the man who has received the award, but my own assessments of the requirements of television journalism

would not accord with the judgement they have given.

Laurie Oakes

I think there are a few things I should reply to. Some people say what was the point of breaking the Budget story two days before delivery. I think the point is obvious. There is an old journalistic tradition and that tradition is being first with the news. That is what this was about and I regard this award as recognition of that tradition and therefore I am very proud to receive it.

Authors and publishers in Australia will soon get compensation for works photocopied by schools and universities. Details of the scheme were announced by the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, while speaking at the opening of the International Booksellers Federation Congress.

Prime Minister

I understand that the safe guarding of copyright is one of the matters you will be discussing at this Congress. My Government has recently been giving renewed attention to this major issue as it is affected by photocopying. The changes which we are making will come into effect on 1 July this year or as soon as possible after that, as soon as time has been allowed for the necessary preparations are made. What we are doing is to establish a system of to Australian authors and publishers for the muliple copying of their works in ecucational institutions. Delegates of this congress can be assured that while this Government recognises the importance of the right of freedom to publish, the Government also recognises the principle of the protection of copyright.

The Opposition Spokesman on Industrial Relations, Mr Hawke, has agreed in principle with the proposal from the West Australian Premier, Sir Charles Court, for a national inquiry into industrial relations. But, Mr Hawke stressed that the inquiry should have a constructive purpose with fair terms of reference. Sir Charles Court has suggested sweeping changes to the industrial relations system including the application of civil law to the industrial process, simultaneous court control union ballots and a time limit to settlement of disputes. Report from Naree Creed.

Bob Hawke

There is no doubt there are features of industrial relations in Australia on the part of trade unions, employers and governments including Sir Charles Court's own Government which need improvement and if the inquiry is set up without in the beginning attributing and saying our industrial relations problems are all the fault of the trade unions or if you like all the fault of the employers, then I can see the possibility of some useful purpose. But, I do want to emphasise Naree that it is going to be counter productive

if indeed it is postulated on the premise that the problem of bad industrial relations is simply a function of attitudes of trade unionism.

The New South Wales Government today released an environmental study that cost them \$1 million, but is they say one of the most comprehensive study's every carried out in Australia. The study will be carried out on Botany Bay.

--oOo--