

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S 12:30 pm NEWS

Mr. Street, Minister for Industrial Relations, said today the views of the Arbitration Commissioners had been taken into account when drawing up the Conciliation and Arbitration Act. The ABC's Canberra Office says the Bill allows the President of the Arbitration Commission to step into any case and either transfer it to another Commissioner or bring it before the Full Bench. Before handing down a decision on award rates or conditions the Commissioner has to refer it to the Deputy President of the relevant industry panel. The Bill also makes it easier for the Federal Government to move for de-registration of a union. Mr. Street was asked today about an Opposition claim that the Government was trying to put a straightjacket on the Arbitration Commission.

Mr. Street

Well, of course that's nonsense. The consultancy process is not a straightjacket at all. It is to maintain consistency so that you don't suddenly get one wage decision which is out of line with the general run, which of course creates enormous industrial disruption. That is what it is for and that is what I am sure it will achieve.

The amendments to the Conciliation and Arbitration Act are due to go before the Senate this week.

A strong earthquake followed by a series of after-shocks has rocked Southern California and Northern Mexico. At least one person was killed and as many as 60 have been injured. No big cities were hit but there is considerable damage to many small towns and communities.

Flash floods in the northwest of Italy, triggered by three days of continuous heavy rain have caused the deaths of two people.

Iran and Libya have put up their oil prices, and in doing so have become the first countries to go above the ceiling agreed on by OPEC. Libya has raised the price of all its grades of oil by \$2.77 cents American a barrel. This makes its highest grade \$26.27 compared with the OPEC ceiling price of \$23.50. Iran has increased the price of its best grade of crude by \$1.50 to \$23.71. At their meeting in June, member nations of OPEC had agreed to hold prices at or below the ceiling. The guideline, which was not binding on members, had held firm until now.

On the first day of his European visit, China's Chairman has launched a strong but indirect attack on the policies of the Soviet Union. Speaking at a banquet in Paris he said that in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia, treacherous means of aggression were being used to sow discord. He said the risk of grave military confrontation also existed in Europe.

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Racing: a total of 28 horses remained in next Saturday's Caulfield Cup field when final acceptances were taken in Melbourne today. 18 horses will be allowed to run.

Prize money for the British Open Golf Championship next year is to be increased by the equivalent of almost \$97,000 Australian to make it the richest golf tournament in Europe.

There has been a cautious reaction in Salisbury to the news that the Zimbabwe Rhodesia constitutional talks in London will resume in the absence of the Patriotic Front delegation. ABC's London office says the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, has indicated his readiness to continue the talks with only the Salisbury delegation led by Bishop Muzorewa.

Police in Peking last night brought to an end a week-long sit-in by 200 peasants who have been trying to put their petitions of grievance to the country's leaders.

Coal miners in Queensland are expected to be back at work by tomorrow morning following the anonymous payment of fines imposed on one of their fellow workers. Mr. Bill Allison, a member of the Queensland Colliery Employees Union was jailed for 14 days yesterday afternoon for the non-payment of street march fines.

A new Police Commissioner has been appointed in N.S.W., Mr. Jim Lees, who has been Acting Commissioner since the resignation of Mr. Merv Wood in June.