

from the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S 7.45 NEWS

Arbitration commissioners are expected to meet today to discuss the proposed changes to industrial law. Most of the 25 commissioners and some deputy presidents are likely to attend the meeting, along with the President of the Commission, Sir John Moore. In Parliament yesterday, the Opposition claimed the amendments would create problems for commissioners in the handling of disputes and urged the Government to withdraw the legislation. The Bill goes into the Senate today where some Government backbenchers have reservations about the measures, as Ron Sinclair reports: The areas of primary concern to Senators with whom I spoke last night were both that giving the Government easier means by which to apply for union deregistration, and the fact that individual commissioners will no longer have the right to make award rulings without the approval of a commission deputy president. The Government in the form of the Prime Minister and Mr Street made it clear yesterday that it would not be swayed in drawing legislation by protest from commissioners.

~~The New South Wales Bar Association has condemned the practice of tabling in Parliament reports which could lead to criminal charges being laid against individuals. The Association's council described the tabling of the recent Finnane Report as a grave threat to the proper administration of justice. The council made it quite clear that it was not commenting on the correctness or otherwise of the Finnane Report. It said that trial by investigator or public debate was not an acceptable substitute for trial by the judicial process. The council also took pains to defend the professional integrity of Mr Michael Finnane, saying he was a barrister of unblemished reputation, and condemned imputations made against Mr Finnane, both inside and out of Parliament, saying there had been no supporting evidence for the allegations.~~

A political activist has been sentenced to 15 years gaol in the first political trial since the cultural revolution. He was accused of writing articles critical of the Communist Party and of giving State secrets to an unnamed foreigner.

Latest reports from the Thai/Kampuchean border say refugees are flowing through at the rate of about 4,000 a day. About 20 are dying each day before reaching safety in Thailand. Thai military forces estimate that up to 100,000 have fled the fighting and the famine in Kampuchea. Vietnam has accused Thailand of siding with China by supporting the ousted Pol Pot government in Kampuchea. Thailand has replied that it won't be dictated to or threatened by anyone.

A new fishing agreement between Australia and Japan is being signed in Canberra inspite of vocal campaign against it. A deputation representing the fishing and tourist industries in New South Wales and Queensland spent more than an hour with the Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Nixon, last night but failed to persuade him to delay the signing of the fishing agreement. However, Mr Nixon has agreed to set up a committee to monitor and collate information during the 12 month agreement.

Conservationists in Tasmania are confident a proposal for a power scheme on the State's western rivers will be rejected. Director of the Wilderness Society said that things had changed since the last big conservation battle when the wilderness lobby lost the fight over Lake Pedder, and that opinion polls this year showed the people of Tasmania opposed the new scheme by a two to one majority.

The New South Wales Minister for Resources and Development has rejected applications from several countries for uranium prospecting licences. The Minister made the decision to ban uranium exploration in New South Wales without consulting cabinet, and informed the Premier only yesterday. He said this morning the decision was in line with the anti-uranium policy agreed to at both State and Federal Labor Party conferences.

ICI Australia will spend \$450,000 landscaping the site of its proposed petro chemical complex at Point Wilson near Geelong in an attempt to protect the habitat of the rare, orange belly parrot.

Legislation making changes to West Australian industrial law has been introduced in the State's Parliament by the Minister for Labour and Industry. The legislation proposes to remove all pressure on employees to join unions, to allow a strike only where union members have voted for it in a secret ballot and to allow deregistration of unions.

Thousands of people in the Perth metropolitan area will be left without bus services after this morning's peak period. Drivers will attend a stop work meeting to discuss a manning dispute.

More than 400 people have been injured in a collision involving four trains packed with commuters in Philadelphia.

Moves to restrict pin ball parlours are being considered in New South Wales and Queensland following complaints from parents that children have been spending up to \$6 a day in them.

The Australian Democrats are seeking a new classification for films, 'V' for violence.