

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S 7:45 am NEWS

The Federal Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr. Tony Street, saw the President of the Arbitration Commission, Sir John Moore, in Sydney last night for talks on the Government's amendments to industrial law. The meeting was arranged at Sir John Moore's request as a result of his discussions with members of the Arbitration Commission. Mr. Street has confirmed that he was asked to discuss the consultative provisions contained in amendments to the Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Opposition by Commissioners to the amendments centres on the provisions requiring them to consult their Deputy Presidents before making decisions on award rates of pay or conditions. The Commissioners have argued that this reduces their independence. Senate debate on the amendments was adjourned last night and is expected to continue today. The Government Leader in the Senate, Senator Carrick, has said that no vote will be taken until the outcome of the meeting between Mr. Street and Sir John Moore is known.

Victoria's Government public transport system has come to a halt. Transport unions say the strike, affecting trains, trams and buses, will last for 48 hours, but the Government says the men won't be allowed to return to work until Monday. It does not want them to collect weekend penalty rates after the two-day strike. The strike, the latest in a campaign by transport unions for wage parity with their NSW colleagues, began at midnight.

The Japanese Ambassador to Australia has denied that his country's new fishing agreement with Australia will endanger the black Marlin. He says, however, he has passed on to his Government concern expressed in Australia over the agreement.

The Federal Government last night successfully guillotined the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Bill through the House of Representatives, clearing the way for its adoption. The Minister Representing the Attorney-General in the House, Mr. Viner, said there had been 51 hours' debate by both the House and the Senate on the Bill which would bring about wide-ranging reforms to ASIO's operation. The Government made concessions to the Opposition by making 9 amendments to the Bill in the Senate, but no amendments were made to the Bill during its passage through the House. The Bill gives the Director-General of ASIO wide powers and says the Minister is not empowered to override his opinions.

The Nobel Peace Prize has gone to Mother Theresa of India. Mother Theresa, a Roman Catholic nun, is famous for her work among the destitute in the slums of Calcutta.

Britain has outlined plans to send military and police advisers to Zimbabwe Rhodesia to help supervise elections and legal independence. The proposals were made in London during a meeting between Britain's Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, and the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Rhodesia, Bishop Muzorewa.

Kampuchea: there is a lull in the fighting and a drop in the flow of refugees. Thai reports from the border area say there are no apparent reasons for the lull in fighting between Vietnamese forces and the group still loyal to the former Government of Pol Pot.

Student protest is mounting in South Korea. The latest outbreak in the country's second biggest city has led to about 200 arrests and up to 100 students and police suffering injuries.

A second political trial is underway in Peking. A woman is accused of violating public order by organising peasant demonstrators. She is also accused of libel over her claim that she was raped by a former Communist Party Secretary.

The N.S.W. Attorney-General, Mr. Frank Walker, has rejected as totally unrealistic suggestions that the tabling in State Parliament of documents such as the Finnane Report can prejudice the course of justice. Mr. Walker was commenting on criticism of the Government yesterday by the N.S.W. Bar Association. The Association's President said the public debate which followed the tabling of special reports made it difficult for anyone charged to get a fair trial. Mr. Walker said he was convinced that the tabling of special investigators reports would not even remotely prejudice any subsequent criminal proceeding. He said that if the Bar Association's attitude were applied consistently it would mean that Royal Commission reports would also be kept secret.

In Adelaide last night the opening performance of the Red Army Song and Dance Company at the Festival Theatre sparked a rowdy demonstration. About 1,000 marched by torchlight to the Festival Plaza to hear speakers from the Captive Nation's Committee which organised the demonstration.

One of America's most noted humourists has died in New York.

There has been a dramatic increase in the incidence of malaria in Queensland this year.

Australia's cricketers will be battling today to avoid defeat in the Fourth Test against India. The match ends today.

The A.B.C. was successful at the Sammy Awards for the television and film industry awarded in Sydney last night.

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