

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF CHANNEL 3 NEWS

The petrol strike: domestic flights have been interrupted and delays occurred of up to five hours.

As expected the freeze on petrol supplies in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong will remain indefinitely. The country areas will escape restrictions for the time being. Mr. Hills says arrangements are now being made to keep essential services on the road. Public transport has at present about ten days supply of fuel, but trains and buses have slightly less than that.

Tasmania's Premier Mr. Lowe today predicted major industrial disputes and political upheaval for the 1980s. Mr. Lowe told a gathering of businessmen in Sydney that inequalities and conflict in business, such as the reporting of massive profits and rapidly increasing rate of bankruptcies. He said the challenge of the 80s for the trade union movement should be a critical self examination to ensure that unions went into the next century with a new spirit of rationality.

Wool growers themselves voted today to start moving unsold wool from wool stores unless the Storemen and Packers dispute is settled in a few days. The President of the Wool Council of Australia, Mr. Dick O'Brien said in Canberra a special committee had been formed to examine ways of moving the wool. (newsconference reported in full in Newsvoice).

Mr. Wran today told a conference of health and research employees in Sydney there should be a cooling off period in the NSW petrol dispute. He thought the tanker drivers strike was unjustified but at the same time he said section 45D of the Trade Practices Act dealing with secondary boycotts was a recipe for industrial chaos.

Mr. Wran

Increasingly there is immediate resort to the extreme course. Employers, particularly, if the employer is the Federal Government, or a federal agency, are turning to sanctions and penalties, unions are turning to industrial action as a first resort rather than the last resort - often for quite trifling claims which any decent industrial advocate or barely competent leadership could get through by negotiation. Some people may think this proves their toughness. It's more often a demonstration of bankruptcy of leadership. Where's all the so-called toughness by the Fraser Government and Telecom got as far as industrial sanity in the communications industry is concerned? Or where in the long run are frequent stoppages going to get the public transport workers except gradually, to throttle a system on which their livelihood depends. And where's the common sense or the faintest chance of establishing common ground or common purpose in the use of the civil law to settle industrial disputes. Only someone hellbent on industrial confrontation could imagine that a fundamental hard won principle could suddenly be set aside without a disastrous reaction. Equally disastrous is the new philosophy expressed by Mr. Fraser as recently as last Friday that the way to settle a dispute is to widen it. On Friday Mr. Fraser urged the wool brokers to sack the non-striking members of the Storemen and Packers Union in the States so that strike funds would not be sent to Victoria and NSW. A wink is as good as a nod and yesterday the Wool Council took Mr. Fraser at his word. The result is that a dispute which was possibly nearing settlement would almost certainly

be prolonged with more and more unions becoming involved. Is this toughness - I call it madness. But it's a classic illustration of how far this nation under its present leadership is moving away from common sense - a sharing of common interests, common standards, common goals and a common purpose.

As the stalemate continues over the American hostages in Teheran Iran's Revolutionary Council has met to discuss the situation. A spokesman for the Council said it would make its views known in a few hours time.

In the seige in the Dominican Republic's Embassy in Colombia there has been little development. There have been three rounds of talks but as yet no details have been released.

Harvesting this years opium crop in the Golden Triangle is about to begin. The opium crop is expected to be smuggled out of northern Thailand. Peter Moncton reports that all five member countries of the ASEAN group have stepped up surveillance at border checkpoints.

Mr. Mugabe says he's almost completed forming his coalition government. He says it will include members of Mr. Nkomo's party and representatives of the country's white minority. Mr. Mugabe said there would be one of two whites in his Cabinet, not necessarily members of Mr. Smith's party. Rhodesian security forces meanwhile are joining in what is being called Operation Merger with former Patriotic Front guerrillas.

Papua New Guinea has given a consortium of Australian, American and West German companies the go-ahead to mine the rich gold and copper deposit in the country's remote western province. Geoff Robertson in Melbourne says BHP leads the consortium into a \$700 million development.

Mr. Hunt has approved TAA's application to have Apex fares extended year round.

The National Executive of the ALP is expected to consider a compromise proposal in the row over federal intervention in the Queensland Branch when it meets on Friday week. The compromise was suggested at a meeting in Canberra at the weekend. It allows for the Administrative Committee of 29, nominated by the National Executive to be expanded by 10. However Dr. Dennis Murphy says the increase is unacceptable.

Murphy

I don't think it's acceptable at all. The Interim Administrative Committee is already at 29 which is quite a large committee if you remember the Whitlam Cabinet was 27 and it became somewhat unwieldy. To increase it from 29 to 39 really makes almost a mass meeting. If you had 39 people then you'd have to get back to having an inner executive and really we'd be back to the whole problem that started this off in 1978.

Question

Well are you concerned that there is some compromise on the part of federal leaders?

Murphy

Look this is a decision of the National Executive of the Party.

It's not a decision of the federal leaders or of the Federal President or of the Federal Secretary. Any change in that National Executive decision would have to be made by the National Executive itself. And I know several of the National Executive members who will be arguing quite strongly against that, myself included. I'm now a delegate on the National Executive of the Party. I would certainly be arguing against increase from 29 to 39.

The AMA today called on the NSW Prices Commission to wind up its enquiry into doctors' fees. The AMA says the enquiry should be wound up on the grounds that no evidence has been produced that doctors' charges were excessive.

The condition of an apprentice jockey injured in a fall at Rose Hill on Saturday continues to deteriorate.

Cricket: Victoria has retained the Sheffield Shield.

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