

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF AM

Later on this morning Sir John Moore will hold meetings with parties in the oil dispute to try to find a solution. One crucial aspect is not in fact an industrial matter but a civil one, the injunction gained by Mr. Leon Laidley against the TWU in the Federal Court. This raises the question - can Sir John Moore arbitrate above the authority of the Federal Court. Peter Jefferson spoke to a specialist in company law from Monash University, Professor Robert Bax. Even if though the industrial dispute is settled this may not resolve Mr. Laidley's particular action and if he is intent on proceeding with that particular action he will be able to do so. Professor Bax says that ultimately the dispute is in the hands of Mr. Laidley and he can really continue it indefinitely until the injunction has been carried through and the court action has been finalised. So despite the action of Sir John Moore the action could continue indefinitely. Mr. Laidley refused an interview but said that he still believes he is right and won't be withdrawing the injunction.

The Prime Minister bought into the TWU dispute last night when he made it quite clear that he regards it as an issue of union power versus the law. Addressing the Directors Institute in Sydney, Mr. Fraser also criticised the role of the NSW Government in industrial disputes and hinted strongly that a law and order election is on the cards.

Prime Minister

Current the Transport Workers Union dispute threatens to bring NSW and maybe Australia to a standstill. This dispute is not about wages; it's not about a fight between unions, or between Federal and State branches of a union; it's purely a fight within one State union. Here we have a citizen of Australia, not trying to deny anyone business, not trying to say a non unionist should do his work; not saying that another union should do the work, but merely saying that his own employee, that a person who is still a member of the same State union should do the work. But the union says - no somebody else a member of the union, should do the work. And as a consequence the State looks like being paralysed. The dispute is the height of absurdity. Too often I think in this State encouragement has been given to the belief that some State unions will achieve support from the State Government if they are tough enough or militant enough. And there is evidence of this on more than one occasion. But that leads to another point of great importance - the role of trade unions and the role of law in industrial matters. Some unions have incomes of millions of dollars a year. They have great power. Many of them have much more power than any company or corporation. But nobody suggests that companies should be allowed to operate outside the law, however much some companies might like it. When Mr. Walker prosecutes a director of some company, nobody suggests that he should not be fined or at times go to gaol if the verdict is guilty. The company director must operate within company law and people expect that the law will be upheld. People don't say that the problem ought to be resolved merely by reconciliation. They simply say that the law has been broken and there is a penalty. Why then when we come to industrial relations, which damages the interests of a great deal more people than any company ever could, do some people suggest that there should be no law at all. - that laws only provoke, that the only solution has got to be by negotiation. That is not a credible position for Australia or for any Government. We have seen in the history of trade unionism that when unions possess

Prime Minister (continued)

unrestrained powers often they use those powers to gain what they want for themselves while ignoring the interests of the wider Australian community. We need to have law to establish the framework within which unions operate. We also have to have law that can and will be upheld. At the moment there is an unhealthy balance between some people and groups possessing indisputable political, economic and union power and the bulk of Australians to whom both of those are denied.

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Sean Dorney reports from Port Moresby on the fall of Mr. Somare and the new government of Sir Julius Chan. Sir Julius Chan said he wanted to establish first a dialogue between the new government and the Government of Australia and it was necessary to understand each other. He said there was no need to change unless there was a need for change.

Cleaning up after America's worst nuclear accident has created more controversy in Pennsylvania. This week major steps are being taken to de-contaminate the crippled reactor. Geoff McMullen reports from Washington.

Mr. Mugabe has announced his new cabinet. As well as including members of his own Zanu PF party, he's also appointed 4 Patriotic Front members and two white ministers. Ken Begg spoke to the Diplomatic Editor of the Guardian newspaper for his assessment. When asked if this ship of State was likely to be one that was acceptable to Mrs. Thatcher but also to Mr. Fraser, the editor of the Guardian replied that this was a case when Australia was in the best sense of the word the 'Godfather'. He said "Malcolm Fraser, the conservative Prime Minister of Australia and Michael Manley the Socialist Prime Minister of Jamaica talking to each other on the phone for a period of weeks before the Commonwealth summit in Lusaka last August. I confirmed this with both men in Lusaka when the Summit was over. Yes - they talked a great deal. Yes - they had in fact planned the operation which then took place - for when Maggie Thatcher arrived as a British Conservative Prime Minister she found a blueprint prepared for her by these two very energetic men. So it was a Fraser-Manley plan and they got into that Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Chairman of the Conference, Dr. Julius Nyerere, head of the front line states and they... put in Nigeria. There you have the team that put together the Lusaka formula. And now we've had in the election and the forming of this cabinet the testing of that formula. It's stood the test. It's come through. The right man in my view has won because he's a strong man and what he says goes and from what I saw of the Australian team in operation, not only in Lusaka then but more recently they have been on the spot for eight weeks - a very top team, an able team - the eyes and ears of Malcolm Fraser in Salisbury monitoring the whole thing. I would say Australia has given them a fair wind and they will respond. Australia has made a powerful friend in Southern Africa. Australia has taken a calculated risk in launching something but at the same time it's delivered the thing that the Queen in her message in the same week - a message for Commonwealth Day, has said, which is the finest gift we could Southern Africa, which is peace with dignity". Patrick Keatley.

From Moscow David Willis reports that the Soviet Union apart from stepping up its military activities in Afghanistan has issued a flurry of statements on Asian affairs, warning the Philippines and Indonesia not to move closer to China and professing to be pleased with

two developments here in Australia. The Kremlin is watching with great suspicion the current tour of ASEAN countries by the Chinese Foreign Minister. Tass has also pounced with considerable delight on two news stories coming from Australia. One appeared in the Australian Financial Review saying, according to Tass that the Fraser Government had rejected an American proposal to reconstruct the naval base at Cockburn Sound in Western Australia to allow US nuclear powered aircraft carriers to call there. Tass says that this showed the impact of mounting protests by the Australian public saying that Canberra was simply a lackey of the United States. The Fraser Government's denial of the Financial Review story has not been mentioned by Tass. Tass has also released a report on a statement issued by a group of Australian sportsmen which opposes a boycott of the Moscow Olympics in July. According to Tass the statement said that boycotting the Olympics was something akin to boycotting the United Nations. Tass quoted marathon runner, Bill Scott as saying that he would defy any Australian Government boycott. The statement itself Tass claimed, indicated that the Fraser Government's solidarity with the US in supporting a boycott is not agreed to inside the country.

There is to be two Labor Parties in Queensland operating out of separate offices with neither recognising the other - at least until the question of intervention can be finalised one way or the other. Mr. Hayden flew into Brisbane yesterday after suspended administrative committee members led by Mr. Hauenschild had gone back on a compromise agreement reached over the weekend. Mr. Hayden said alternative offices were to be set up and they'd run in opposition to the suspended committee, which is still in control of the Breakfast Creek party headquarters. Even Ed Casey who has been closely aligned with the 'old guard' or junta is surprised by Mr. Hauenschild's rejection and he has called for a complete re-consideration. In Brisbane Mr. Hayden is speaking with Jane Singleton.

#### Mr. Hayden

Mr. Casey is absolutely stunned at the decision of the junta to reject the negotiated understandings that arose at a meeting in Sydney on Saturday.

#### Question

Mr. Casey was there.

#### Mr. Hayden

Like me. Like everyone else - he went away under the clear impression that the representatives of the Queensland ruling group or - (inaud) previously ruling the party were happy with the decisions. And with good reason - they achieved some substantial concessions. Some I wasn't too happy about.

#### Question

Their compromising is unstuck. So what happens now?

#### Mr. Hayden

Well we have no recourse now but to follow the determination of the Federal Executive in its resolution that provides for a number of things - the setting up of an interim committee, that if people

invited to serve on it don't accept appointments - the appointment of other people to talk with people who will serve on that committee to take steps to set up an office for the official structure of the Australian Labor Party and in fact get things going. We have the support of the Branches, the junta doesn't have the support of the Branches.

Question

Mr. Hauenschild still claims however that his branch of the Party is the one and only branch. What is to be done about it?

Mr. Hayden

Well I'm not going to waste time as to who is the good, the pure and the virtuous, we are the official structure of the Party - that's well established and we'll set up offices in Brisbane. We've had offers. We have quite sufficient money to run the Party. We have the support of the Branches. That's the important thing.

Question

So you're going to have what amounts to two groups claiming they are the ALP in Queensland.

Mr. Hayden

Oh there'll be a significance difference between the two groups. One, that is the one that is recognised by the National Executive and affiliated to it. We'll be the one which will prosper and they'll have public respect. It will be the one which will have the support of the branches and a growing number of trade unions. The other will be the one that has brought so much discredit and you know that so much dissatisfaction within the Labor Party.

Question

Do you think Mr. Hauenschild might be waiting for Mr. Hawke to return in the hope that he might sort it out as he is against intervention?

Mr. Hayden

Well I have no idea. But I don't think that Mr. Hawke would be keen to become involved. Mr. Hawke is purely identified with the junta people in Queensland and therefore to talk about any outsider becoming involved in the problem here would imply that it would have to be someone mutually acceptable and someone not recognised as being committed to one side or the other. Now that would rule Mr. Hawke out and a lot of other people:

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Talks are to be held in Perth between aboriginals and the Western Australian Government to try to resolve the Noonkanbah dispute. Jim Bonner reports from Perth.