

from the Press Office

SUMMARY OF 7.45 NEWS

Chemists in Australia have been overpaid by the Federal Government for dispensing by as much as \$235 million in the past 7 years. The Minister for Health told Parliament last night that the money paid under the Pharmaceutical Benefit's Scheme could not be recovered by law. He said the excess payments which could not be estimated exactly were attributable to an error in 1974 in the translation of statistical specifications to computer and in the method of updating information.

Sir Charles Court says he is prepared to ensure that drilling will go ahead at Noonkambah, and that if Amax wanted its water drilling rig back on the station today, his government would make this possible. Sir Charles said white stirrers were leading the Aboriginies to adopt a subversive attitude. Federal opposition spokesman on Aboriginal Affairs, Mr West and Federal Labor Member for Fremantle were at Noonkambah yesterday. Mr West said they saw what he described as the peaceful and negotiated withdrawal of Amax workers from the station, and that there was no intimidation or threats of violence.

Senator Chip has sent a cable to President Carter asking him to persuade Amax not to drill on or near sacred Aboriginal sites. He said that the WA government was applying pressure to Amax to drill on or near the sites, and that Amax was responding to the pressure.

Britain is considering the development of chemical weapons. The government's first policy paper on defence provides for a big increase in defence spending in the next financial year. The government also plans to increase the role of women in the defence services, including the possibility of letting them carry guns.

An amendment to Queensland's Police Act giving police the power to compile dossiers without their knowledge has been defended by the Police Commissioner, Mr Camm. He said the police were already keeping dossiers and the amendment passed last week would simply make the action legal. Mr Camm said he knew of many people who would like the police to keep a dossier on them, including their finger prints, to show that they were good upright citizens.

Bank interest rates in the US has now risen to 20% and other interest rates are also expected to rise.

The Federal Government has denied a visa to a Soviet cosmonaut who was invited to Australia on a goodwill visit. The Department of Foreign Affairs said it had refused the visa application, in line with the Government's policy of preventing cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union.

Widespread rioting has broken out in Bristol, England, following a police raid on a club in a predominately black part of the city.

Mr Ken Fry has called for an enquiry into the conduct of police at a 21st birthday party in Canberra three weeks ago. He told Parliament yesterday that only a full enquiry would restore respect for the police in Canberra.