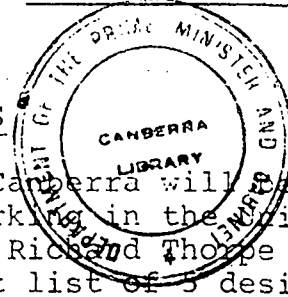


PRIME MINISTERTHURSDAY 26 JUNE 1980

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF 12.30 NEWS

The new Parliament House to be built in Canberra will be designed by an Australian architect living and working in the United States. The winning entry came from Mr. Richard Thorpe and was announced this morning from a final short list of 5 designs. Provisional estimates for the cost of the new Parliament House at \$150 million with completion scheduled in time for the 1988 Bicentenary celebrations. Barry Cassidy reports.

One person has been killed and as many as six others injured in an explosion and fire at the Shell oil refinery in Sydney's Western suburbs. The explosion occurred at the Clyde refinery. Tony Eastley reports.

Six meat workers were arrested in Portland after clashes between demonstrators and trucks taking live sheep to the docks. The trucks were under police escort when the demonstrators surged forward and pelted the cabins with eggs and rocks. Scuffles began as police moved in to arrest the demonstrators. About 30 police were at the docks this morning after members of the Meat Workers Union said they'd be holding a quiet demonstration against the export of live sheep. Police said the meat workers had been quiet until the trucks carrying the sheep tried to pass through their picket lines to board a ship bound for the Middle East.

The Victorian power strike: power workers in Melbourne began meeting half an hour ago to discuss whether they'll join in the strike now in its third day. Meanwhile Victorians are coping with rolling blackouts but business and commerce are now feeling the pinch. Maxine Gray reports.

The battle of Thailand's northern border has developed into a war of words involving the major powers. The Soviet Union has accused China and the United States of staging the clashes on the border between Thailand and Kampuchea. China, for its part, has warned Vietnam of the grave dangers involved if it persists in what China called military adventures. The United States has condemned the Vietnamese military incursion into Thailand and the UN Secretary General, Mr. Waldheim has expressed great concern and appealed to all parties concerned to restore peace in the area. Tass said the border fighting erupted when Kampuchean units repelled an attempt by 'counter revolutionary scum' to cross the border from Thailand. Tass said the United States and China had staged the clashes to try to influence Southeast Asian states not to recognise the new regime in Kampuchea. China warned Vietnam of the grave risks involved and also promised resolute support to the Thai Government in its struggle against aggression. The statement however did not threaten immediate military action against Vietnam.

State leaders are gathering in Canberra for the start of the annual Premiers' Conference and Loan Council meetings this afternoon. The ABC says the Premiers will face claims by Mr. Howard that the States are in a healthy position. A background paper released by Mr. Howard says 3 states have already planned on a balanced budget while Queensland faces a small deficit.

It also claims spending by the States' semi government authorities and local bodies has grown more rapidly over recent years than federal spending. Tomorrow's session will deal with tax sharing arrangements and more general issues.

The Newcastle Sun is to close after 62 years in print. The General Manager said today the Sun would cease publication on Friday 4 July. The decision had been due to financial considerations.

New attempts are being made by NATO foreign ministers to solve differences between Greece and Turkey which are preventing Greece's return to NATO's military structure. Malcolm Downing says the Afghanistan crisis is boosting hopes that a solution might be found to the dispute.

All West Rail passenger and freight services in Western Australia have been stopped by a strike involving members of the Australian Railways Union. Bus and truck services operated by West Rail have also been cancelled and goods are not being accepted for freight.

A convoy of nearly 100 cars and trucks began heading south from Carnarvon this morning. They are carrying nearly 200 people stranded in Carnarvon because of the floods.

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