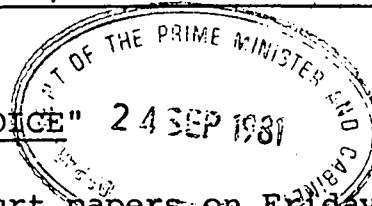


From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S "NEWSVOICE" 24 SEP 1981



The Federal Government plans to lodge court papers on Friday for the de-registration of the Builders Labourers Federation. The Prime Minister told Parliament today that recent retaliatory action by the BLF against Costain Australia would be added to the case the Government had prepared.

Warwick Beutler

Only two weeks ago the Government said it would hold off its de-registration proceedings against the BLF because of the legal implications associated with the Royal Commission into the union. But the latest action against Costain Australia has made the Government determined to go ahead. The BLF retaliated against Costain after the Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr Viner tabled a document last week which Costain was named as one company providing help to the Government in its case for de-registration. Mr Fraser warned today that if the BLF continued with bans or placed new bans on companies giving evidence against it, the Government would not hesitate to use its weight to uphold respect for legal processes. Mr Fraser was speaking during debate on a motion of no confidence in Mr Viner. Moving the motion, the Opposition Spokesman on Industrial Relations, Mr Hawke, claimed that Mr Viner had misled Parliament last week in his statement about the state of unpreparedness of the case against the BLF when he assumed the portfolio in April. The debate produced little that was new. Mr Hawke repeated many of yesterday's assertions. Mr Viner and Mr Fraser said there was no basis for the extravagant claims that had been made. Mr Fraser also defended Mr Viner outside the House.

Mr Fraser

There is no conflict between a statement which says substantial progress has been made early in May and one in the middle of April which says that the case is unprepared.

Question

Sir, it seems that you are backing Mr Viner all the way.

Mr Fraser

Obviously, I am relating to the facts. Of course I am backing Mr Viner because the facts support Mr Viner. Obviously Mr Viner, when he got that Attorney-General's advice at the middle of April pulled all the stops out on a matter which the Government up to that point, over three or four months had made the great play of. But over the succeeding period it had proved very difficult to get all the evidence and inform the Attorney-General's Department because they are the ultimate judges, believed was adequate and ready to go before the Federal Courts.

Warwick Beutler

One of the few interesting features of today's debate was that the former Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr Andrew Peacock, found that he could neither support the Opposition, nor the Government, he abstained.

The BLF Federal Secretary, Mr Gallagher said today he had a complete list of companies which had co-operated with the FEderal Government in its attempts to de-register his union. Report from Allan Knight.

Mr Gallagher

What happened was that there was a conference called one weekend during the the transport workers strike in Melbourne and Mr Viner ushered all the journalists in to the file room of his office and on the table there was the Builders Labourers de-registration application with all the names of the companies who have given statements. So a very good friend of ours got the names for us.

Question

So will you be considering taking action against these other companies?

Mr Gallagher

We will play it our own way. We have known for a while that Costain had done it, but at this stage we will just deal with Costain.

Question

Will you be considering bans against those other companies?

Mr Gallagher

At this stage we will just continue in the dispute with Costain.

Question

Are you concerned about the new moves towards de-registration?

Mr Gallagher

No, I am not concerned about it, because I don't believe that the Government will be able to convince the court that the unionismen should be de-registered. I don't think they have sufficient information. The reason why they are now going to put the application in is because he is trying to save Mr Fraser and his job.

The ARbitration Commission today called a compulsory conference for next Friday in a bid to end action by the Builders Labourers Federation against the Costain company. The Masters Builders ASSociation said that bans applied last week were crippling the company and threatening standdowns in some areas.

There has been a breakthrough in the dispute which has been holding up shipping around Australia and disrupting fuel supplies in some states. A new vote on a return to work by marine engineers is to be taken tomorrow as Garry Scully reports.

The Federal Opposition has called for a Royal Commission into the circumstances of an air crash at Sydney airport last year in which 13 people died. The call came up at a tabling in Federal Parliament today of a report on the crash by the Transport Department. Report from Barry Cassidy.

Barry Cassidy

All 12 passengers and the pilot were killed when the Beach 200 aircraft crashed into the Western sea wall at Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport one and three quarter minutes after it had taken off for a flight to Temora. The Air Safety Investigation Branch of the Transport Department has found that the aircraft was 128 kgs over weight when it took off. IT also concluded that the company Advance Airlines of Australia required its planes to take off on reduced power below the flight manual limit to extend the life of the engine. The Opposition wants a Royal Commission because the investigation also concluded that officers of the Department of Transport knew of the practice but did nothing about it. The Opposition's Transport Spokesman, Mr Morris spoke with Warwick Beutler.

Question

Are you suggesting that there was incompetence?

Mr Morris

One can't tell from the report whether it is incompetence, it seems rather there was a studied neglect.

Question

Had it been going on for some time?

Mr Morris

Yes, the Department was aware of it, it was more or less accepted practice in the industry and the Department, the responsible authority knew about it, the Minister knew about it, did nothing about it. We had raised this matter. I had raised it in the Parliament in late 1978 and I appealed to Mr Nixon, the then Minister for Transport, for a bi-partisan approach to the whole question of air safety. That appeal was rejected with abuse and invective and in this report we are seeing something of the results of that neglect of the Minister.

Question

Could it still be going on?

Mr Morris

Of course.

Military authorities in the Philippines have reported that about 35 men women and children have been massacred by a band of heavily armed men. Report from Keith Dalton.

HEavy rain and tough security kept protesters at bay during the second match of the South African Rugby Team's tour of the United States. Report.

There have been more arrests in South Africa as blacks resist Government attempts to evict them from so-called white residential areas. Nine people have been detained in the latest security clamp down. Report.

Government backbenchers today added their voice to supporters of the Community Youth Support Scheme asking the Government to continue a training scheme for those young unemployed who will not be covered by other programmes. The Government announced in the Budget that CYSS would be disbanded after the end of next month, but today at the weekly joint government party meeting in Canberra backbenchers urged the Government to institute a new programme to preserve the best features of CYSS.

Jeff Leach

There are 274 schemes operating throughout Australia, but the Government has decided that from the end of October, their role of training young unemployed and keeping them occupied will taken up by other youth support schemes. The decision has lead to widespread demonstrations, focusing on the Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs and to Parliamentarians coming under pressure from the churches, welfare organisations, and CYSS employees. Delegates from CYSS have spent the past two days in Canberra lobbying politicians. The Government has already been forced to admit it will reconsider. Today answering the backbenchers, Mr Brown said the Government was obliged to empahasis youth training programmes and to take up its responsibility to those who might not be provided for in other programmes. Mr Brown said the Government was now evaluating the proposals before it.

Conservationists will be denied a no-damns option in the November referendum on the next major power sheme for Tasmania. This was decided today by the Tasmanian Parliamentary Labor Party reversing an earlier promise to conservationists. Report.