

Nothing was hidden: Bond

PERTH: Alan Bond told a court yesterday that he had not concealed any material facts from a fellow businessman when he had asked him for a \$20 million contribution to the 1987 Rothwells rescue.

He said he had not acted dishonestly to the businessman, Brian Coppin, by not telling him that he had negotiated a \$16 million fee from Rothwells in return for helping to organise the rescue of the merchant bank.

The now-bankrupt Bond was giving evidence on the third day of his trial on a charge of inducing Mr Coppin to buy shares in Rothwells while at the same time dishonestly concealing the fact that Bond Corporation was to receive the fee.

The Perth District Court has heard that Bond had agreed with Rothwells boss Laurie Connell that a fee should be paid the day before he sealed an agreement with Mr Coppin.

Mr Connell told the jury that Bond had asked initially for \$20 million, but negotiations had reduced it to \$16 million.

Bond said no such agreement had existed before Mr Coppin made his commitment and that only preliminary discussions had taken place.

According to Bond, it was his managing director, the late Peter Beckwith, who had brought up the subject of a fee for Bond Corporation.

He told the jury that Mr Beckwith, who died in 1990, had suggested that Connell be approached on the subject in return for the work Bond Corporation executives had done on the Rothwells rescue.

Bond said his role in the negotiation had been to "pluck the figure of \$20 million out of the air".

Cross-examined by the Crown

Divorce now confirmed

Bankrupt businessman Alan Bond has confirmed publicly for the first time that he and his wife of 37 years, Eileen, have divorced.

The admission was made yesterday at his trial in the Perth District Court on a charge laid in relation to the 1987 Rothwells rescue.

Giving evidence for the first time in the three-day trial, Bond was asked to provide the court with the normal personal details by his counsel Ian Callinan, QC.

When Mr Callinan asked if he was a married man, Bond hesitated, then said "No".

Until yesterday family members had avoided questions on the divorce, although it became public earlier this year that proceedings were under way. Since then, interest in Bond has been centred on his protracted bankruptcy proceedings, which concluded last month.

Since his trial began last Monday, Eileen has been in the public gallery lending support.

She has been joined by her sons Craig and John to hear the man who has been called many names during his rise and fall, referred to in court as "the accused".

Prosecutor, John McKechnie, Bond said the only basis for such an amount was that Mr Connell also charged very large fees and that he had good reason to be grateful to Bond Corp.

While Bond admits that discussion of the fee had begun on the night of October 25, 1987, the de-

fence claims he could not have concealed it dishonestly from Mr Coppin the next day because proper agreement had not been reached with Connell or Rothwells.

Bond told the jury that he had not heard of the matter again for almost two months, when Mr Beckwith raised it.

He had informed Mr Coppin of the fee at the earliest opportunity.

In earlier evidence, Mr Coppin told the court that Bond had said the Rothwells rescue could fail if he did not contribute to it.

He said he would not have seen the need to put his money into Rothwells had he known Bond Corporation was to receive such a payment.

The Rothwells rescue came about after a run on its funds in the wake of the 1987 stock-market crash. On the weekend after the crash, Bond and a group of bankers and businessmen organised a \$370 million rescue package consisting of \$150 million from the private sector and a \$150 million indemnity from the Western Australian Government.

Along with Bond, one of the main players in the scheme was Brian Yuill, then the head of Sydney merchant bank Spedley Securities.

In evidence yesterday, Mr Yuill told of a request he had made on behalf of another of his companies for a fee from Rothwells.

When asked what he had done to earn the fee, Mr Yuill replied, "Not very much, really."

"But if someone had come to Laurie Connell on the Friday and said it would cost him \$50 million, he'd have accepted it," Mr Yuill said.

Counsel will give their final submissions today.

Transported to the top, and delighted



An elevation and a ministry. And a break from the serious proceedings of being sworn in. Now a Cabinet Minister, Senator Bob Collins, promoted to Transport and Communications, shares a joke — or offers words of advice — to the newcomer, Mrs Jeanette McHugh, the new Minister for Consumer Affairs, who's obviously delighted about the post.

Warcimes trial: lawyers wrap up:

ADELAIDE: Defence counsel at Australia's first European war-crimes case argued in Adelaide yesterday that the prosecution case against a pensioner, Ivan Polyukhovich, 75, had been based on flawed, contradictory and circumstantial evidence.

In a final submission in the Adelaide Magistrates Court, lawyer Michael David, QC, said his client had no case to answer and should not go to trial.

Polyukhovich is charged with murdering 17 Jews and being involved in the deaths of another 850 at Serniki village in nazi-occupied Ukraine in World War II.

Mr David said testimony by some of the more than 30 overseas witnesses brought to Australia had contradicted earlier statements by themselves as well as court evidence by others.

He pointed to difficulties witnesses had in identifying Polyukhovich saying their testimony related to events which had taken place 50 years ago.

He said at least one count against his client "should go nowhere near a jury" and that other counts were based on inconsistent accounts by witnesses.

This was later countered in a final submission by prosecuting counsel Greg James, QC, who said Polyukhovich had been identified as having taken part in rounding up Jews and marching them to a pit where they had been shot.

Mr James also said witnesses had identified Polyukhovich as being involved with German soldiers and local police and had taken part in killing those who had escaped.

Mr James continues his final submission today before Magistrate Kelynn Prescott, who must decide whether Polyukhovich should be tried.

Wilson accuses Howe of attempting to muzzle him

MELBOURNE: The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health, Brian Howe, was accused yesterday of trying to gag Western Australia's Minister for Health, Keith Wilson.

Mr Wilson publicly savaged the Medicare health system yesterday in a speech to a conference on hospital funding in Melbourne, when he said Australia had the "most inefficient

and ramshackle hospital-funding system one could imagine".

After addressing the meeting, Mr Wilson said Mr Howe had approached The Western Australian Premier, Carmen Lawrence, to pressure her to stop him from making the speech. Mr Wilson said he was not surprised Mr Howe attempted to muzzle him and that Ms Lawrence had consulted him about the approach but did not vet his speech.

"The Premier of Western Australia is as concerned as I am," Mr Wilson said.

A spokesperson for Mr Howe said he knew of the accusation, but made no further comment.

Mr Wilson said the Medicare hospital system worked well for people needing emergency care but not for the poor or those with chronic but not life-threatening diseases.

chronically ill people on low incomes waiting months for admission to a public hospital to hear repeated assertions by [Mr Howe] that Australia has one of the best hospital systems in the world," Mr Wilson said.

He said that if Medicare was not reformed there soon could be signs on Western Australian public hospitals which read, "This hospital has been under-funded by the Federal Government".

"It must be cold comfort for

Dowding acted 'improperly'

PERTH: It was open to the WA Inc Royal Commission to hand down findings of improper conduct against former Western Australian Labor premier Peter Dowding, his former deputy, David Parker, and former senior minister, Julian Grill, commission lawyer Brian Martin, QC, said yesterday.

In his closing submissions to the commission's Rothwells inquiry, Mr Martin said the three men could be found to have acted for "electoral self-preservation" and not in the best interests of the state.

The inquiry has examined the WA Labor Government's involvement with the Rothwells merchant bank which collapsed in November, 1988, with losses of up to \$500 million.

Mr Martin's address yesterday

covered the Government's purchase in October, 1988, of a petrochemical project with Bond Corporation from former Rothwells chairman Laurie Connell and businessman Dallas Dempster.

Of the \$400 million paid for Petrochemical Industries Ltd, \$350 million went to Mr Connell and was used to pay off Rothwells' debts.

The remaining \$50 million went to Mr Dempster.

Mr Martin said it was open to the commission to find the Government became involved with PICL only to stop Rothwells from collapsing. He said it could find the transaction to have been another Rothwells rescue and the price of the project to have been set by the size of the "hole" in Rothwells.

In the first Rothwells rescue in October, 1987, the Government, under Mr Dowding's predecessor, Brian Burke, provided a guarantee to secure a \$150 million overdraft facility for Rothwells at the National Australia Bank.

Mr Martin said the commission could find that the Government decided the PICL deal would have to go ahead because it would otherwise lose the \$150 million guarantee.

He suggested a Rothwells collapse would also have revealed additional "indirect and secretive" government funding to the merchant bank nine months before a state election.

"It is open to the commission to find in those circumstances and for those motivations the Government committed itself to

the project at a price that was thought to cure problems in Rothwells," Mr Martin said.

"Those involved were Mr Dowding, Mr Grill and Mr Parker."

"It is open to the commission to find they were motivated, and improperly so, by electoral self-preservation and not by what was in the best interests of the state."

In other submissions yesterday, Mr Martin said it was also open to the commission to find Mr Dowding was evasive during some of his testimony.

Commissioners Geoffrey Kennedy, Sir Ronald Wilson and Peter Brinsden will hand down their findings on the Rothwells inquiry later this year.

Mr Martin continues his closing submissions today.

COMPUTER SALE

HURRY! SALE DEFINITELY ENDS 6PM SUNDAY UNLESS SOLD OUT EARLIER

THIS OFFER WON'T BE REPEATED IN CANBERRA AGAIN

12 MONTH AUSTRALIA WIDE WARRANTY

\$1499 INCLUDING TAX

GENUINE IBM COMPATIBLE COMPUTERS

286 - 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Super VGA Colour Monitor • 40 meg hard disk (80 and 120 available) • 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" floppy drive • 101 keyboard COMPLETE SYSTEM \$1299	386 SX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Super VGA Colour Monitor • 40 meg hard disk (80 and 120 available) • 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" floppy drive • 101 keyboard • 1 meg ram \$1499	386 DX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33Mhz Clock speed (40 Mhz available) • Super VGA Colour Monitor • 80 meg hard disk • 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" floppy drive • 101 keyboard • 2 meg ram \$1899
--	---	--

NEW SUPER FAST 25 Mhz CLOCK SPEED

OPEN UNTIL 9PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY

FROM \$100 DEPOSIT AND \$20 WEEKLY

Baobab Enterprise has purchased 100 assorted top quality computers from the overstocked manufacturer at THE RIGHT PRICE! This once-only opportunity is available only until SUNDAY 6pm. Baobab Enterprise have set this once-only sale up at Stallion Furniture Canberra, so don't be late, as after Monday Baobab Enterprise will have gone back to Sydney. However have no fear, all equipment is covered under a full 12 months warranty, AUSTRALIA WIDE. The major Canberra service agent is in Belconnen. Buy now from Baobab Enterprise, the largest computer buying group in Australia!!!

BAOBAB ENTERPRISES IS HOLDING THE SALE FROM THE PREMISES OF:

STALLION FURNITURE

143 GLADSTONE STREET, Fyshwick, A.C.T.
PHONE: (06) 280 7428 FAX: (06) 280 7530

FAX ORDERS WELCOME

From Thinking to Action —
 A day with
Edward de Bono

Canberra, Friday 26 June 1992

Edward de Bono, the world-renowned expert on creativity and lateral thinking now takes us one step further — into action. First he gave us the tools for thinking in his 'Six Thinking Hats'. His new book 'Six Action Shoes' does the same for action.

Dr de Bono's concepts and techniques have been used by governments and corporations around the world. In this one-day program hear him speak on how to move from Lateral Thinking to Six Thinking Hats to Six Action Shoes or ... 'From Thinking to Action'.

Participants will receive a free copy of Dr de Bono's new book 'Six Action Shoes'.

Venue: National Convention Centre
 31 Constitution Avenue
 Canberra City
 Date: Friday 26 June 1992
 Time: 9.00am to 4.30pm
 Cost: \$390 per person (lunch and refreshments included)

For further details or to register by phone, please contact Liz Baker on (06) 259 2199, or mail registration form to 7 Carey Place, Melba, ACT 2615 or Fax to (06) 258 2784.

'A Day With Edward de Bono' is presented by JOHN BAKER AND ASSOCIATES PTY LTD A.C.N. 008 660 624

This program has been designed and structured within the framework of the Training Guarantee Act

Please register me for 'A Day With Edward de Bono' (Cheque payable to John Baker and Associates Pty Ltd)

Method of Payment Cheque Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Card No. _____ Expiry Date _____

Name _____

Signature _____ Phone _____

Organisation/Position _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

The style fits so does the price

- Left Velvet Hat \$24.90
- Pirate Shirt 7-14 \$44.90
- Gaberdine Waistcoat 7-14 \$39.90
- Gaberdine Pants 6-14 \$29.90
- Below Skivvy \$14.90
- Gaberdine Jacket 7-14 \$59.90
- Strump Pants 6-14 \$39.90



SYNDICATE

Woden Plaza Shopping Centre

SELL OR BUY OR ADVERTISE DIAL 2803055.
 The Canberra Times