

Fightback 'threat to SE NSW'

By CHRIS UHLMAN

The Opposition wanted to turn back the clock on the economies of Canberra and south-eastern NSW, the Labor Member for Eden Monaro, Jim Snow, told Parliament yesterday.

Mr Snow said Fightback would create regional unemployment equal to 1983, "when unemployment was higher in the region than it is now — even in a world recession".

He was speaking to his motion attacking the Coalition on its attitude to Canberra and the Public Service, and saving proposals to move departmental heads and sections from the city were contrary to the principles of decentralisation.

The economies of the ACT and region were becoming more integrated through a range of industries: the dairy industry, with 30 per cent of NSW milk production coming to Canberra; the ski industry worth \$500 million; the fishing industry worth \$15 million; and the region's wool clip was worth \$300 million.

Depicting Canberra as a town full of public servants was a myth.

"Only 28 per cent of federal public servants are in Canberra, 72 per cent are outside the ACT borders," Mr Snow said. "Queanbeyan office space is made use of by ACT and NSW public services and by a range of private industries."

Fightback would push the region's

economy back to 1975-83 when public servants were sent to expensive accommodation in Melbourne and Sydney. Many had since returned.

Moving away from Canberra was not a move to the "real world", relocation did not solve isolation in the Public Service.

"One may make the same ideological contacts in Red Hill as in Toorak or Vaucluse, but where people live has little effect on what they think," he said. "A public servant, like a business operator, like a parliamentarian, can be a workaholic."

It was harder to insulate yourself in Canberra or Queanbeyan than in other cities because farms were within 20 kilometres and cleaners, plumbers, drivers and base-grade clerks lived close by and used the same shopping centres.

Nor was the region free from poverty. Last year the Smith Family had 13,000 clients needing emergency help. The city had yuppies but they shared it with "yobboes, scots, goths and even rock apes".

Politicians should take the blame if they were getting a narrow range of advice from public servants.

"They will put up the advice which is likely to be accepted by government," he said. "We ought to accept our responsibilities as parliamentarians."

Liberal Bruce Reid later said Fightback was not aimed at bashing Canberra or public servants but at improving efficiency.

Vroom! Vroom! New shop is a wheel sensation



A sight to behold for Daniel Sunderland, 10, of Kaleen. Sherriffs Mini Cars, a new model toy shop, opened yesterday at Patrie Plaza. It's the fourth outlet of well-known Sydney retailer of collectable model cars, Geoff Sherriff. It also features science fiction goods, plastic model kits, posters and other memorabilia in addition to colourful scale model cars.

Car 'dragged' man 6km after drug deal fight

IPSWICH, Qld. A 20-year-old Ipswich man charged with dragging another man by car to his death had told police the victim "went silly" after a drug deal, an Ipswich court heard yesterday.

Anthony Charles Stumer, of suburban Bundamba, faced committal proceedings in the Ipswich Magistrates Court.

He is charged with murdering Steven Bradburne near Esk, just north of Brisbane, on March 10.

He is further charged with attempting to unlawfully kill Charles Ellwell of Esk, the unlawful use and wilful damage of a motor vehicle, dangerous driving and possessing a dangerous drug.

Stumer has been in custody since he was found in a paddock the day after Mr Bradburne, 33, was dragged by a car more than 6km along the Brisbane Valley Highway, his leg caught in a seat belt.

The NSW man's remains were found along the road between Esk and where the car crashed.

His torso and a leg were found beside the crashed car.

Stumer sat quietly in court with his eyes closed as the prosecution called two witnesses and tendered most of the 36 exhibits expected to be produced.

Prosecutor Shane Mallory said some evidence was still with scientific officers, including a sawn-off .22 rifle with the letters STUM scratched into the butt.

Acting Detective Sergeant Colin Rolls told the court he had spoken to Stumer at Esk police station. He said Stumer had told him, "Steven didn't like the deal about the drugs and that, he didn't like the gun."

Sergeant Rolls said Stumer had said, "Steven went silly" and "I tried to get him out of the car."

The hearing resumes today.

DPP loses Eastman costs case: risk award might inhibit appeal

By SUSAN AITKEN

The Director of Public Prosecutions should not be awarded costs following a failed application in the ACT Supreme Court to disqualify a magistrate from hearing a case, Justice John Gallop ruled yesterday.

He told David Harold Eastman, 46, of Reid, that there had been some substance in his submission that an order for costs could inhibit Eastman's inclination to prosecute an appeal to the Federal Court.

Although he would make no order as to costs, he specifically rejected a number of Eastman's other submissions.

Gallop finds some substance, but rejects other submissions

Submissions against costs being awarded. Eastman earlier took the stand to be cross-examined about an affidavit on his income, arising from one of the submissions he put on Friday last week that costs should not be awarded on the grounds of hardship.

Justice Gallop had told him then that it would be necessary to file an affidavit about his income if he wanted to claim hardship.

Ken Archer, for the DPP, said on Friday that he had understood that

Eastman's income from superannuation amounted to about \$16,000 a year.

He believed Eastman also received investment income.

According to Eastman's affidavit, dated May 26, he received gross business income of about \$3000 from shares and securities valued at \$54,000.

The affidavit said, however, that tax-deductible expenses incurred in earning that business income, in-

cluding allowable share-trading losses, exceeded the amount of business income so that the net income from this source was nil.

He objected yesterday on the grounds of irrelevance to a series of questions from Adrian Robertson, for the DPP, about the split between shares and fixed-interest securities.

Justice Gallop ruled that questions determining what proportion of these investments was realisable were relevant.

Eastman said that the securities were redeemable at 24-hours' notice and that he had shares in several companies. He said that he was currently trading in the share market and that he had traded in the past and had made "substantial losses".

Mr Robertson was endeavouring to discover whether the business income included dividends when Justice Gallop cut short the questioning.

"I don't think [Eastman] is a person of particular wealth," Justice Gallop said.

"I am prepared to take his affidavit at face value."

Police marksman exonerated over shooting

HOBART: A marksman of the elite special operations group in Tasmania was justified in shooting dead a Vietnam veteran during a siege south of Hobart last year, a coroner ruled yesterday.

Magistrate Ian Matterson also rejected claims made by a police ballistics expert that several officers were involved in a conspiracy and had "enticed" him to plant evidence following the shooting of Joseph Gilewicz at Pelverata on July 16 last year.

Mr Gilewicz, 42, was killed by a single shot fired by an SOG sniper during a 12-hour siege at his isolated property.

The SOG had been called in after Mr Gilewicz had made death threats over the telephone to family members of his de facto wife.

But Mr Matterson's decision to exonerate the SOG officer who fired the shot which killed Mr Gilewicz was greeted by howls of derision from family and friends of the dead man who packed the court's public gallery.

Several of them cried out "bullshit", others left the courtroom.

Mr Matterson said the SOG sniper, code-named Sierra 4, had an honest and reasonable belief that he and a colleague were in immediate dan-

ger after Mr Gilewicz had raised a shotgun to a firing position and pointed it at them.

Mr Matterson, however, launched a scathing attack on a police ballistics expert who threw the inquest into turmoil last month when he alleged police involved in the operation had been involved in a conspiracy and had enticed him to plant evidence after the shooting.

The coroner's findings have angered members of Mr Gilewicz's family. His sister Helen Stott said outside the court, "They really made him out to be a real animal, but that's not the truth."

Electricians' strike 'risks Toyota plan'

MELBOURNE: Striking electricians were warned yesterday that they were threatening the future of Toyota's \$420 million Melbourne car-making plant.

The warning came from vehicle builders, a union which will get sole coverage of Toyota's Altona plant once it is completed in about nine months.

Toyota would be forced to consider "if it was all worthwhile," the assistant federal secretary of the Vehicle Builders' Employees' Federation, Jim Buck, said yesterday.

About 20 electricians have disrupted work on the project, banning the installation of power lines and the next phase of the project has been delayed. The men, from the Electrical Trades Union, are bitter about a landmark deal between the company and the ACTU, which would allow the VBEF sole union coverage of the site.

The ACTU congress supported the proposal overwhelmingly, but the ETU seems prepared to battle with the union leadership to have members in the new plant.

Mr Buck said that out of the 2500-strong workforce at the new plant, only three or four electricians would be needed at the plant. An offer for electricians to stay in the ETU and work at the completed plant as contractors was rejected by the ETU.

Mr Buck said the ACTU had told both unions to resolve the dispute between themselves.

"The action they are taking at the moment will make the Japanese worry if it was all worthwhile."

The plant, which will make up to 10,000 vehicles a year, has been touted by the Federal and state governments as a sign that international companies are still confident enough to invest in Australia's car industry.

Tax reforms should be 'green'

BRISBANE: Australia needed major taxation reforms to help develop its economy and natural resources without damaging the environment, the executive director of the Australian Conservation Foundation, Philip Toyne, said yesterday.

Speaking to the national convention of the Taxation Institute of Australia on the Gold Coast, Mr Toyne said tax was a potentially powerful tool for environmental protection and ecologically sustainable development.

"It is dismaying to learn last week that the Federal Treasurer has announced increases in tax deduction for vehicles used for business," he said.

"These deduction increases will still be directly proportional to the engine capacity, and therefore fuel consumption of the vehicles."

Sydney's air pollution was one of the worst in the industrialised world and improving it would require tightening

standards, including road-user charges, he said.

The direct health costs of vehicle emissions in Australia in 1989 was estimated to have been \$787 million, reflecting low fuel prices compared with the OECD average and lax vehicle-emission standards.

But Mr Toyne was not in favour of introducing a carbon tax in Australia without other reforms being put in place.

"The carbon tax is broad, blunt and indiscriminate and will hit efficient users of energy and those who have no alternatives, as much as the inefficient users," he said.

"The policy focus in the short-term, therefore, should be on removing the major cause of low elasticities: energy-market failure."

Mr Toyne called for "performance or rehabilitation bonds" levied on mining or extraction industries which would be

required to lodge security bonds or other financial instruments.

This would ensure the cost of rehabilitating mine sites was met by the miner, rather than through public funding. The company could reclaim the bonds when the work was completed satisfactorily.

Tax breaks could also be used as incentives to restore heritage buildings and for farmers to even out their income streams under the Income Equalisation Deposits scheme.

"Greater savings by farmers is desirable from an environmental viewpoint, because with greater savings, farmers will be less likely to compensate in years of low prices, by overstocking or engaging in other environmentally damaging practices," Mr Toyne said.

There was also a need for more favourable tax treatment of capital outlays, including accelerated depreciation on plant and equipment, as well as the abolition of payroll taxes, he said.

War crimes: pensioner to know soon

ADELAIDE: A magistrate will decide next week whether 75-year-old Adelaide pensioner Ivan Polyukhovich will be the first person in Australia to stand trial for European war crimes.

The decision will come almost 2½ years after Mr Polyukhovich became the first man to be charged under controversial Australian war-crimes legislation, for offences allegedly committed in Nazi-occupied Ukraine 50 years ago.

Closing submissions at committal proceedings were completed yesterday. Crown prosecutor Greg James, QC, saying there was ample evidence to send Mr Polyukhovich to trial.

Magistrate Kelvin Prescott said he would hand down his decision on June 5.

The Crown has alleged that Mr Polyukhovich murdered 17 people and was knowingly involved in the slaughter

of up to 850 Jews in Nazi-occupied Ukraine during World War II. Mr Polyukhovich had been charged originally with the murder of 24 people and with being involved in the liquidation of a Jewish ghetto in the village of Serniki.

However, this was formally amended last week because of the inability of some overseas witnesses to give evidence in Australia.

Under the war-crimes legislation, the prosecution must prove that the alleged killings were part of a Nazi policy of Jewish extermination.

Mr Polyukhovich "knew what he was doing" when he allegedly helped herd hundreds of Jews, including women and babies, to be shot at a burial pit at Serniki, Mr James said.

On Wednesday, the defence lawyer Michael David, QC, said the case against his client was based on flawed,

contradictory and circumstantial evidence. The committal hearing began in October last year after a series of delays. In 1990, Mr Polyukhovich spent three months in hospital after he suffered a bullet wound in the chest, which the prosecution said was self-inflicted.

A committal hearing for another Adelaide pensioner who is also charged with war crimes will begin on June 9.

Mikolay Berezowsky, 78, is charged with having been involved in the murder of 102 Jews near the village of Gnivan, in Ukraine, in 1942.

A third man charged under the legislation, 67-year-old Heinrich Wagner, of Adelaide, is to face his committal hearing later this year.

Wagner is charged with murdering 20 people and being knowingly involved in the murders of 104 others in the Ukraine between 1942 and 1943. — AAP

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Public Notice to Owners of all Mytton's Stainless Steel LPG Automotive Tanks

The Queensland Division of Workplace Health and Safety has recently published an Alert concerning alleged defects in Mytton's tanks. The tanks in question are those with the Design No. V889-79.

We are aware of only one instance of a reported defect with a tank and we have not yet had the opportunity to carry out our own testing. The tank in question is said to have been salvaged from a scrap yard and re-installed in a vehicle without proper safety checks. We suspect that the real issue may be a lack of compliance with Australian Standard AS 1425 which governs safety standards for testing and installation of tanks.

Mytton's Stainless Steel LPG Automotive Tanks have had an outstanding record in Australia with no failures in service having occurred. The record indicates that this is an extremely safe product.

Owners of Mytton's tanks stamped with Design No. V889-79 are asked to telephone Mytton's Limited on (03) 646 4843 or our toll free number (0800) 331 563 and we will arrange for a free safety test on their tank. Other Mytton's tanks are not in any way involved and owners of such other tanks should not be concerned by the publicity surrounding this issue.

Peter Kynnersley
Chief Executive - Mytton's Limited

Sub raid re-enactment insensitive, says RSL

SYDNEY: The NSW branch of the Returned Services League has dissociated itself from a re-enactment of the May 31, 1942, attack by three Japanese midget submarines on shipping in Sydney Harbour.

The re-enactment has been planned for this Sunday by the Australian National Maritime Museum to coincide with the opening of its 50th anniversary exhibition called Hitting Home!

In the 1942 attack, 19 naval ratings were killed as they slept aboard the depot ship HMAS Kuttabul which was hit by a torpedo.

The NSW branch of the RSL believes the planned re-enactment is insensitive.

"Some members are very concerned about the effect on people with relatives who died in that attack," a spokesman for the NSW RSL, Tom Jackson, said yesterday after the issue had been considered by the organisation's state congress. However, there were no plans to take the matter further, such as seeking to have the re-enactment called off.

"We just want our case to be known because we have had veteran groups approaching us saying 'Are you going to take a stand on this?' We are opposed because we think it's insensitive," he said.

The RSL resolution supported a commemorative church service to be held on Sunday morning, but objected to the mock battle to be held that night.