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WEATHER

CANBERRA: Fine, Max 25.
LAKES: E to NE winds 5 to 10 knots.
S. TABLELANDS: Fog, Cloudy,
mild to warm.
N. COAST: Few showers.
Details — Page 10.

The Canberra Times

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TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1986

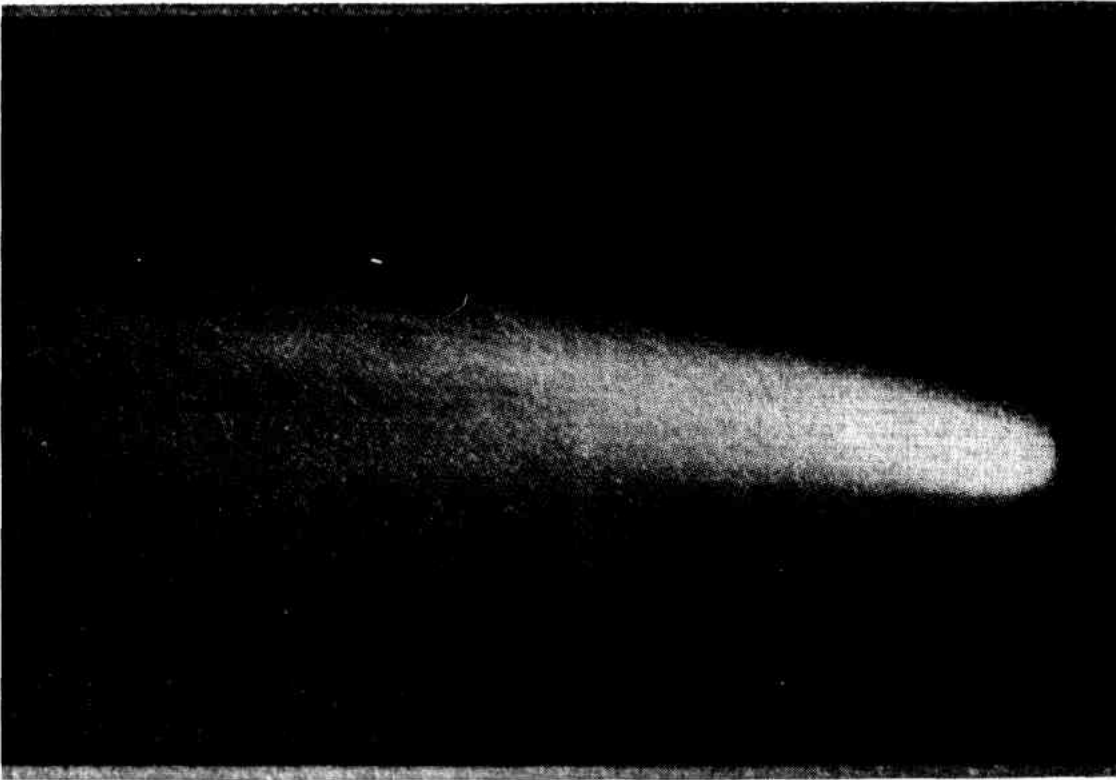
18 Pages

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MOTORING TODAY -Page 13
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Chronicle

the good times
THURSDAY
The best-dressed men in fashion
Canberra band Mood
Section: striving for success
A new cabaret for Canberra



This photograph of Halley's Comet was taken in colour by the UK Schmidt Telescope at the Anglo-Australian observatory, Siding Spring, NSW, and made available yesterday. The stars are fuzzed through time exposure and the fuzzy objects above the comet's head is the globular cluster Messier 75. The next two weeks are the best time to see the comet, especially April 9 when there will be no moon. See 1 page — Page 10; Something pulling Milky Way. — Page 4.

Cut spending or face future bind: EPAC

By PAUL MALONE, Political Correspondent

Government spending on services has to be cut now in order to enable it to be maintained in the future, the office of the Economic Planning Advisory Council argues in a paper presented to the council last month and made public today.

The paradoxical conclusion in the paper is based on an assessment of public debt and the interest paid to service it.

High interest rates and growing debt have meant the interest-servicing burden has risen dramatically since the late 1970s, the authors, Dr Adrian Blundell-Wignall and Mr Richard Whitelaw, say. The authors call for restraint in Commonwealth and State spending.

The paper is certain to be welcomed by the Treasurer, Mr Keating, who is arguing for Budget cuts. But strong resistance can be expected in caucus, where the backbench is worried that the

economy is in danger of slipping back into recession.

Dr Blundell-Wignall and Mr Whitelaw say public outlays have risen from around 30 per cent of gross domestic product in the early 1960s to 45 per cent now, due to increased spending, unemployment and a growing interest bill.

Increased taxation had not been sufficient to finance fully the expanding government outlays.

The increased borrowing has reflected increases in the Commonwealth Budget deficit, increases in State authorities' borrowings, or both.

The authors argue that the interest burden is such that if the

debt is not cut back, then in future years, interest payments will gobble up a massive proportion of government revenue and thus result in less for services.

Their conclusion leaves the Government with little option. But the conclusion is of course dependent on assumptions about the future interest rates and the growth rate in the Australian economy. A fall in world interest rates could relieve the burden as it would drop the base on which Australian rates rest.

The debt burden could also be reduced if a high growth rate is achieved. Government spending could of course stimulate this. The

authors, however, prefer to rely on short-term cuts in spending to stabilise the debt burden in the future.

The paper, entitled 'Medium Term Budgetary Policy', covers a time frame which governments with three-year terms of office are not accustomed to looking at. It does not prescribe what the Government should do in each and every Budget. There would be room in a recessionary year to lift expenditure. But the authors do not see this year as such a year and are clearly arguing for restraint.

The authors note that the present Government has made substantial progress towards stabilising the fiscal situation. The public-sector deficit to GDP ratio is expected to be reduced to around 4.5 per cent from the 6 per cent average of the three preceding years, despite the growing interest burden, they say.

Building pessimism. — Page 3.

Unions 'get \$4m' for propoganda

Backdoor payments of nearly \$4 million have been made to trade unions for political and propoganda exercises, according to the first report of the Opposition's Waste Watch Committee.

The committee's chairman, Senator Michael Baume, said yesterday that the Federal Government was covertly diverting grants intended for cultural and community projects to the propoganda efforts of the Builders' Labourers' Federation and other unions.

He said examples included:

- \$10,000 for a muralist-in-residence to help the BLF with its wall painting.
- \$35,000 for a monthly newspaper for the Port Kembla ironworkers.
- \$3,000 for a storyteller-in-residence for the South Australian Labor Council.
- \$8,272 to allow striking members of the Food Preservers Union to attend leadlight and ceramic classes.
- \$172,000 to the Printing and Kindred Industries Union for a research paper attacking the Opposition's wages policy and calling for federal funding to be withdrawn from academic research bodies that do not support ACTU policies.

Senator Baume said at least \$1.2 million intended to help the long-term unemployed under the Community Employment Program had been channelled into 16 union propoganda projects up to November 1984. The Government had refused to release information about CEP funding after that date under the Freedom of Information Act.

"However, we do know from the \$4 mil-

lion so far identified what the Government has to hide," Senator Baume said.

He said the Australia Council had more than doubled its funding of unions between 1983-84 and 1984-85. It had given at least \$1.1 million in direct grants to unions up to June last year, and unions had received another \$1 million in 28 grants under the Department of Employment's Industrial Democracy Program. Left-wing unions were the main beneficiaries of the Government's Migrant Workers Scheme.

Senator Baume said the report took no account of funding to "front" organisations set up to "milk the system" on behalf of the union movement, but private advice indicated that many millions of dollars were involved overall.

One example was Garage Graphix which, with a \$3,675 Australia Council grant, had produced a poster saying: "When jobs are scarce, bosses get to set workers against each other. Some workers are fired while others work for lower wages and poorer conditions. Workers from other countries are exploited by this set-up."

The Minister for Arts, Mr Cohen, said the only guidance the Government had given the Australia Council had been that it should provide greater access to and participation in community arts. It had also intervened to support Australia's major flagship arts companies. Otherwise, the Government supported arms-length funding of the arts and had no say in how grants were distributed.

The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relation, Mr Willis, declined to comment.

No ACT Easter road deaths

There were no deaths on ACT roads this Easter.

Police said late last night that 94 accidents had been reported since Good Friday, with eight people injured.

The accident rate was lower than that on normal weekends, despite an influx of 50,000 people, including those for the Street Machine Nationals.

This was the ACT's third consecutive Easter free of road deaths, though three

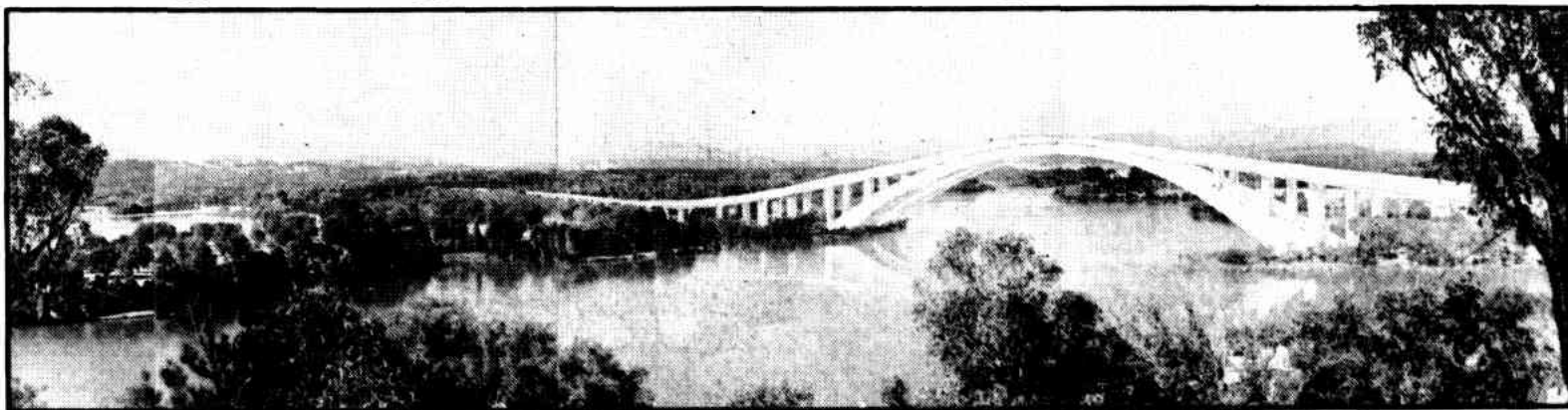
people had already died last month because of road accidents.

The national Easter road toll stood at 41 last night: NSW 16, Queensland 10, Victoria six, Western Australia four, South Australia four and Tasmania one.

In one accident on the New England Highway three people, one a six-year-old, were killed when their car and an ambulance collided. The ambulance driver suffered a broken arm and cuts.

Third bridge to go over the top of the lake

A third bridge across Lake Burley Griffin — connecting Glenloch interchange to Yarra Glen via Yarralumla and Weston Park — is being planned by the National Capital Development Commission.



This is an artist's impression of the planned third bridge across Lake Burley Griffin. Government House can be seen just under the bridge.

Plans call for an arc bridge in the style of Gladesville Bridge Sydney — the lake is too deep in that section for a flat piered bridge — complete with a complex series of flyovers at both Glenloch Interchange and at the new junction with Yarra Glen. Houses along at least one street in Yarralumla will be resumed and demolished and the street widened. The old Canberra Brickworks will be demolished. Part of the Forestry Oval and the Yarralumla nursery are also in the way of the new freeway. The Weston Park maze and disabled children's playground will also be demolished, although these "may" ultimately be resisted.

Royal Canberra Golf Course is to be left untouched, apparently for two reasons, according to NCDC documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act: the political clout of its membership (NCDC considers that its opposition will be more significant than opposition from Yarralumla residents); and because running the new freeway through the golf course would destroy the view from Government House. The School of Forestry, off Banks Street, is also to be left untouched, because it contains listed buildings, and much of its graceful grounds, and the forestry oval will be taken up, with the freeway separated

from the buildings only by 20 metres and a retaining wall.

If the plan proceeds, NCDC has a plan for "neutralising" Yarralumla resident opposition. It will put up a sham, more gruesome alternative, which will involve the widening of Novar Street, dividing the suburb into two, and causing considerably greater dislocation. The NCDC planning documents express confidence that it will be able to keep the debate to a choice between alternatives, rather than any fundamental question of whether the freeway is needed at all.

Looking further on, the NCDC documents say, the construction of the

bridge and freeway may enable the erection of a 26.2-hectare bitumen carpark on the site of the existing cork plantation to the west of Glenloch interchange. This will permit the implementation of a "park-and-ride" plan, with car spaces for 10,000 cars and a bus shuttle service running to Civic, Belconnen and Woden.

Four new flyovers would be added to Glenloch interchange to join up to the new bridge approaches. The bridge, at its highest, would be 47 metres above the water, making it clearly visible from all parts of the lake foreshore. The documents say that there is no practical or attractive alter-

native to an arc bridge (a tunnel is out of the question on geological grounds) and that the design should reflect this and make the bridge a new and significant Canberra structure.

Once over the lake, the new freeway would connect with an extended Coronation Drive, which will take traffic off the freeway to the parliamentary triangle. The freeway proper will cut through the old brickworks to join the Cotter Road and an extended Yarra Glen Drive just east of Dunrossil Drive.

Overpasses will be built to connect Yarra Glen, Adelaide Avenue and the Cotter Road with the new freeway

(tentatively called the Nott Freeway, after the first Federal member for the ACT, Dr Lewis Nott).

Leaving aside the cost of construction of the carpark, estimated at \$65 million, the bridge and freeway project is estimated to cost \$325 million and to take three years to build. For a year during construction of flyovers at Glenloch Interchange, the Tuggeranong Parkway would be closed to Tuggeranong-Civic traffic, but open between Civic and Belconnen and Tuggeranong and Belconnen. Later, there would be a nine-month period during which all Woden-Civic traffic was routed through Kent Street Dea-

kin, to allow the overpass and flyover construction at what has been tentatively titled the Yarralumla Interchange.

So far, the plans are only on the drawing boards, and have not been formally endorsed at any high NCDC level. But already sophisticated design work is being done within the commission, which is also devising schemes of selling the project both to the Government and the people of Yarralumla. Tentatively, NCDC would like to begin work in late 1988, thus taking up some of the new Parliament House workforce.

Pryor's view. — Page 2.



James Cagney and Mae Clark in 'The Public Enemy' (1931).

Cagney dies aged 86
Dance man, not 'rat'
— Page 11

Soviet power
The inability of the Soviet Union to provide economic and technological leadership might prove a fatal weakness for its status as a superpower, a senior Australian defence strategist believes. — Page 3.

Nicaragua accuses
Nicaraguan President accuses the United States of provoking tension between his country and Honduras and called for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Central America. — Page 4.

Law of contempt
The Law Reform Commission has published a paper on the law of contempt, balancing the rights of the accused against the public's right to know. — Page 8.

Compo Bill snags
South Australia's new worker's compensation Bill has run into snags and is being blocked in the Upper House by the Australian Democrats. — Page 9.

Bruising VFL games
Serious injuries and reports mark yesterday's split round of VFL matches. — Back Page.

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