

SOUVENIR EDITION

**New Parliament House
Opened
MAY 9 1988**

The House Magazine

FOR SENATORS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOL. 7 No. 12

\$4.50



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isn't the only place
that recognises
the importance
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Queen's speech in Great Hall

In this bicentenary year, Australians are looking back over the events of the last two hundred years. This is well worth while because the events link together to tell a story of remarkable achievement.

Of course, we do not know what was going through the mind of Captain Phillip when he stepped ashore at Sydney Cove, but I am sure he could never have imagined such an event as this, or the scene before us today. I also rather doubt that the founding fathers of the Australian Federation could have foreseen that their work would be crowned by such a confident expression of Australia's faith in parliamentary democracy.

I am sure that they had every hope that the new Federal constitution would be a success, but neither they, nor anyone else, could have predicted that no less than three important national parliamentary occasions would fall on the same day of the year, and involve three generations of my family.

It was on May 9 1901 that the members and senators elected by the citizens of the new Commonwealth of Australia, gathered in Melbourne for the opening of the first session of the first national Parliament by my grandfather.

It was also on this same day in 1927 that the provisional Parliament House was opened here in the new capital of Canberra by my father. So, in the bicentennial year of the arrival of the First Fleet, and in the seventy-fifth anniversary year of the foundation of Canberra, there can surely be no more appropriate day for the opening of this magnificent new home for the Commonwealth Parliament.

The completion of this splendid building has put the finishing touch to Walter Burley Griffin's grand design chosen by the Australian

Government seventy-six years ago. It is as if all the other buildings of the great national institutions had been waiting for this, the greatest of them all, to take its rightful place as their centre and focus.

This is a special occasion for the Parliament, but it is also a very important day for all the people of Australia. After eight-seven years of Federation, a permanent home has been provided for Parliament, which is both the living expression of that Federation and the embodiment of the democratic principles of freedom, equality and justice. Parliamentary democracy is a compelling ideal, but it is a fragile institution. It cannot be imposed and it is only too easily destroyed. It needs the positive dedication of the people as a whole, and of their elected representatives, to make it work.

Parliamentary democracy fragile

The earliest free settlers brought their ideals of a democratic society with them, and succeeding generations of Australians have inherited those principles and put them to work in what we know as the parliamentary system. Commitment to parliamentary democracy lies at the heart of this nation's maturity, tolerance and humanity.

This is surely one of the characteristics that has attracted so many people to come to Australia from countries which do not enjoy the benefits of the parliamentary system in such large measure. This new Parliament House will become the workplace for the men and women into whose hands Australians choose to place legislative and executive responsibility.

The chambers will become the

centres for debate on all the pressing issues of government, and future generations of Australians will look to those who work here for national security, wise legislation and fair administration.

I am sure that many will feel a pang of regret as they leave the old and familiar Parliament House. I have many happy recollections of events in the simple elegance of its hall and chambers, but it has been obvious for years that a larger building with more modern facilities was needed.

It was equally obvious that it would never be easy to make the decision to build a new House. I can only say that I am deeply impressed by the speed and skill with which this site has been transformed into such an impressive and functional home for the national Parliament.

I had the opportunity to visit the site at an early stage in the construction and I am delighted to be here today to see it complete. I offer my warmest congratulations to the architects, to the members of the Parliament House Construction Authority, to the contractors and sub-contractors, and to the artists and crafts people, whose creative talents enrich the interior, and, particularly to Michael Tjakamarra Nelson, whose mosaic is in the forecourt.

Together they have given the whole complex a distinctive Australian character. More than ten thousand men and women can take great pride in the parts they have played in the creation of this symbol of Australian unity and democracy.

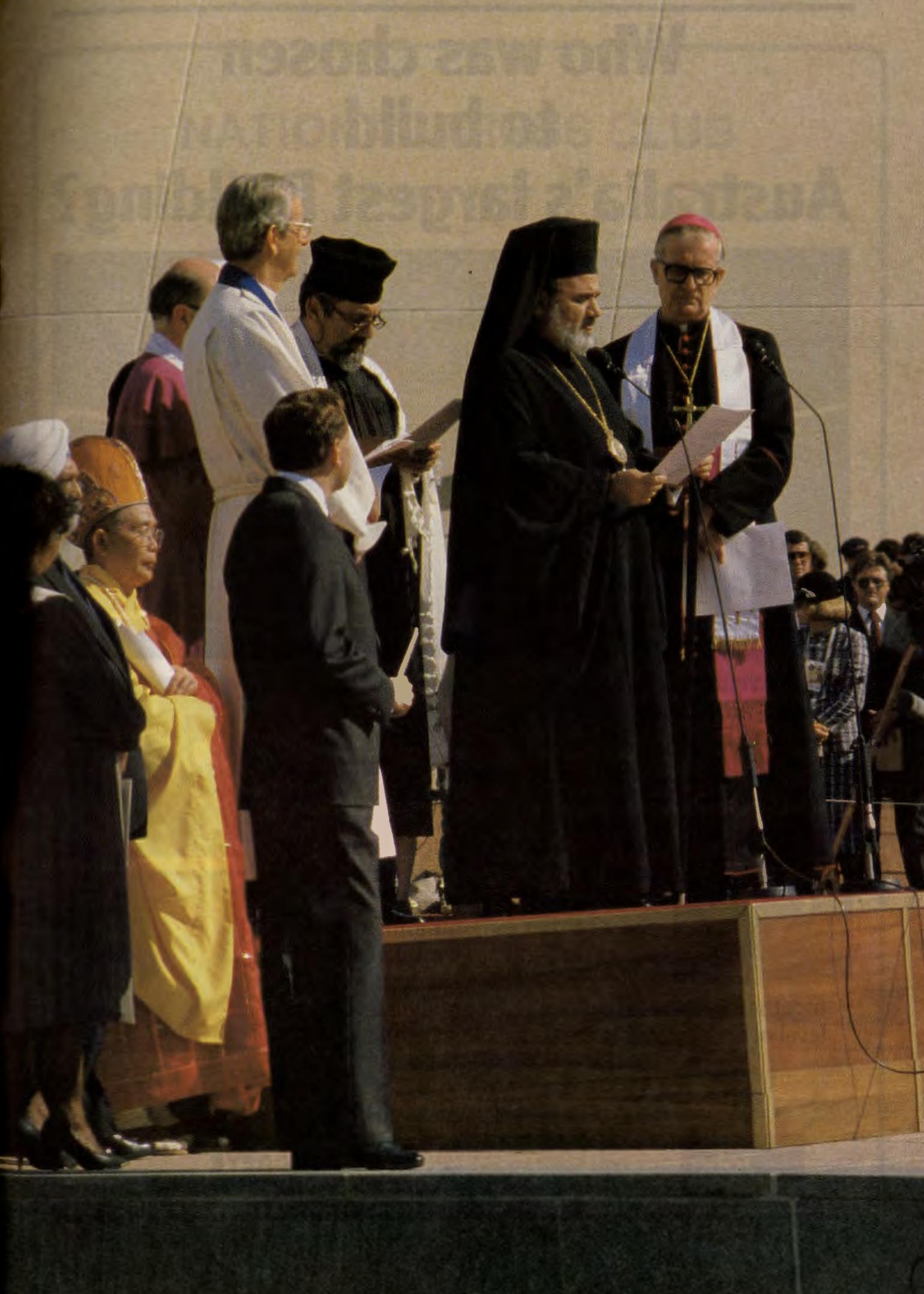
The laws of the Commonwealth of Australia are enacted in the name of the Queen and the two Houses of Parliament. It is fitting, therefore, and a great pleasure for me, to offer my best wishes to all those who will be giving their services to the nation within these walls, and to declare open the new Parliament House of the Commonwealth of Australia.



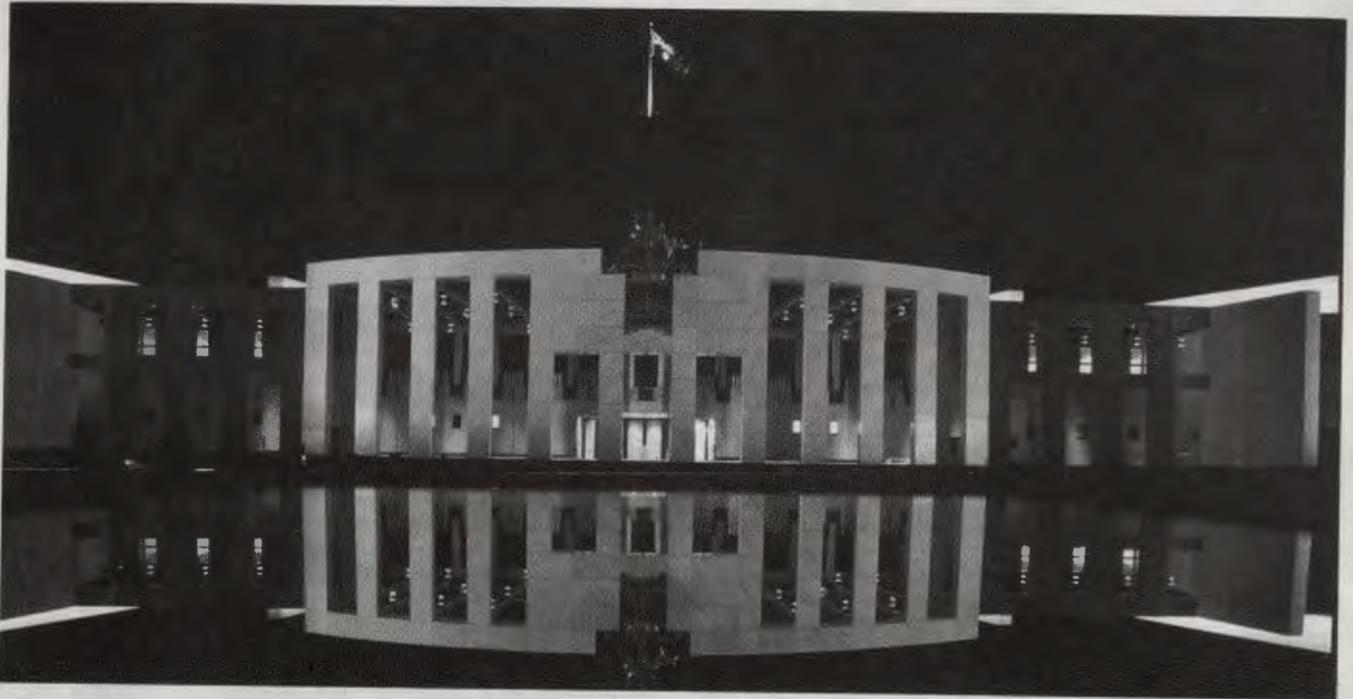








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Kilpatrick Green: electrical and mechanical contractors

Working closely with the Parliament House Construction Authority and the construction project managers, Concrete-Holland Joint Venture, Kilpatrick Green are proud to have been a partner in Australia's most prestigious Bicentennial project.

Kilpatrick Green was chosen for major electrical and mechanical contracts. Electrical services included the mains switchgear, distribution equipment, the installation of lighting, power and other associated services for the Senate Chamber and Forecourt Car Park. This represented a very substantial portion of the total electrical services. The huge Central Energy Plant Room supplies heating and chilled

water to the whole complex and was supplied, installed and commissioned by Kilpatrick Green. This Plant Room is the largest in the southern hemisphere. Working with Honeywell Australia, Kilpatrick Green were awarded a "Global" package for the installation of security cabling throughout the new Parliament House. The Kilpatrick Green group as a major electrical, mechanical, instrumentation group operating throughout Australasia has extensive resources in terms of personnel, finance, systems and equipment to place the Group in a unique position to partner Australia's future growth.

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Senate Chamber



English engineering company has major construction role

The Matthew Hall group of companies is an international engineering organisation founded in London in 1848. Since its formation, the group has continually expanded and diversified its operations.

This growth has accelerated appreciably during the past quarter century and during this time, Matthew Hall has played a prominent part in the expansion and rehabilitation of commerce and industry in various parts of the world.

As a company, Matthew Hall is involved in all aspects of providing air-conditioning, electrical services, fire protection, plumbing and sanitation, and planned preventative maintenance. Among other recent major Australian projects with which it has been connected are Grosvenor Place, Town Hall House, the Intercontinental Hotel, and Darling Harbour, in Sydney, QE II Hospital, and Bond Tower, in Perth; the State Government Precinct, and Myer Complex, in Brisbane; the National Art Gallery, High Court, and Australian Defence Force Academy, in Canberra; Underground Rail; Loop, and Remand Centre, in Melbourne; to name but a few.

25th anniversary

Matthew Hall Mechanical and Electrical Engineers Pty Ltd commenced its Australian operation in 1963, and of course, this year is celebrating its 25th anniversary in Australia, and a fitting testament to its involvement is its significant contribution to the new Parliament House. The company was awarded

12 major contracts, including air-conditioning, electrical services, fire protection and detection systems and lightning protection services. These contracts are currently valued in excess of \$40 million. At the peak of its work on the building, the company was employing more than 250 people, including 120 electricians, 40 sprinkler fitters, 38 plumbers, support staff, draughtsmen, supervisors and sub-contractors' personnel.

One of its plumbing apprentices, 22 year old Ken Channon, won the silver medal in the plumbing section of the International Olympic Work Skill Championships held in

the Sydney Exhibition Centre earlier this year. Ken did a large part of his training "on the Hill".

Company project director, David Honor, has congratulated the workforce on their magnificent contribution to the finished building.

"It was a complex job well done. Only a company with such capable personnel, clear objectives and financial stability could achieve the enviable record on this project.

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The search for a permanent home

Years of debate precede new Parliament House opening

The Parliamentary debates over the building of Australia's permanent Parliament House have been long and agonising, often acrimonious, sometimes witty, usually passionate, mostly conducted with trepidation towards the taxpaying public, and always - at least until the last decade - with a healthy political instinct for indecision. Indeed, it was not until 1974 and the passing of the Parliament Act, that Capital Hill was settled on by

both Houses as the site for the new and permanent Parliament House -- some 60 years after the first design competition had been abandoned due to the outbreak of World War 1. As the then Labor Member for Burke, Keith Johnson, remarked when introducing the Bill, "The private citizen, in his selection of a site for his home, pays great attention to the site for drainage, views, neighbours and of course price". Rarely, however,

can the private citizen afford to wait so long. In the meantime, the provisional Parliament House had been erected and opened in 1927. Like so much else in Australian federal politics, it was essentially a compromise - albeit an enduring one, and the debates that then surrounded such questions as to cost, size, decoration and location have echoed down the years.

Vital move to Canberra

In July 1923, the House of Representatives, meeting in Melbourne, resolved that Parliament would meet in Canberra after the 1926 federal elections. The design competition for the Parliament House, abandoned in 1914, was not reopened. Instead, the chief architect for the department of Works, John Murdoch, produced a plan for a building which he proposed to erect on Capital Hill. The plan was strongly opposed by Walter Burley Griffin, who a year or two earlier, had been sacked as Federal Director for Design and Construction of Canberra. Griffin had always proposed that the Parliament House should be built on Capital Hill, with an imposing building for public assembly on Camp Hill behind it - symbolic of the notion that Parliament is the servant of the people. This "Capital" was to have been the whole focus of his design for the city, situated at the apex of the Parliamentary Triangle. In 1923, Griffin suggested that the nucleus of the Parliament House be built



Keith Johnson ... "drainage, views, neighbours and price"

continued next page

on Camp Hill, to be developed further as funds and the needs of the legislative required it.

Provisional building

In the event, neither his nor Mr Murdoch's proposal was adopted. It was decided instead to erect the modest provisional building on the lower slopes of Camp Hill. Mod-

esty was the word for it. It was to be made quite clear that there were to be no "marble halls", no "architectural embellishments", no "striving for effects", or monuments. Said the Minister for Works and Railway, Mr P.G. Stewart, who turned the first sod with a steam shovel in August 1923: "If... the faith of the optimists who believe that in Can-

berra we are to have the world's most beautiful city is confirmed in fifty years' time, the work of building a Parliament House worthy of such a city is too big for us to tackle at the present time, and might well be left to posterity". However narrow of vision Stewart may have seemed at the time, posterity surely has not forsaken him - nor, indeed, the foresight of Walter Burley Griffin.

To build a provisional Parliament House in front of the site of the permanent building would, Griffin declared, "be like filling the front yard with outhouses". And he went on: "It (the provisional building) would never be pulled down; history teaches us that such things are not changed; the pressure being too great to allow it. Sentiment would play some part in preventing the destruction, but the primary reason would be economy".

Walter Burley Griffin was quoted with approval by Keith Johnson in the 1974 debate when he remarked of him, "This man was a farseeing man and apparently did not believe in temporary measures for the sake of expediency".

Expediency wins

Expediency, however, won the day in 1923, and the provisional building, situated in isolated splendour on what was little more than a cow paddock, was opened on May 9, 1927 with much pomp and a good deal of ceremony by the Duke of York (later King George VI), exactly 61 years before his daughter, Queen Elizabeth II, opened the new and permanent Parliament House.

Unlike the numbers who saw the opening of the new building in 1988, in 1927 only some 2000 spectators turned up and an estimated



Sir Robert Menzies ... favoured lakeside site

10,000 uneaten meat pies had to be buried in a specially-dug trench. Canberra was then little more than a small country town, and indeed it remained that way until, with the appointment of the National Capital Development Commission in 1958 and the commitment of the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, work began in earnest to expand and develop Australia's capital city.

This turning point followed a report into Canberra by a Senate Select Committee which said, "After forty years of city development, the important planned areas stand out not as monumental regions symbolising the character of the national capital, but more as graveyards where departed spirits await a resurrection of national pride".

Menzies' role

Sir Robert Menzies was responsible for the decision to dam the Molonglo River to create Lake Burley Griffin, as the city's designer had always proposed. Unlike the architect, however, Sir Robert's Cabinet proposed that the permanent Parliament House should be built, as at Westminster, beside the water.

The lakeside site was in fact endorsed by a majority of a Joint Select Committee in 1965. Three years later, however, this was overturned by votes of both Houses, although they remained divided whether the permanent site should be Camp Hill or Capital Hill.

The Senate voted six times between 1968 and 1973 in favour of the Capital Hill site. And when the historic joint sitting of both Houses in June 1974 produced a majority of members in a free vote in favour of Capital Hill, the way was open for



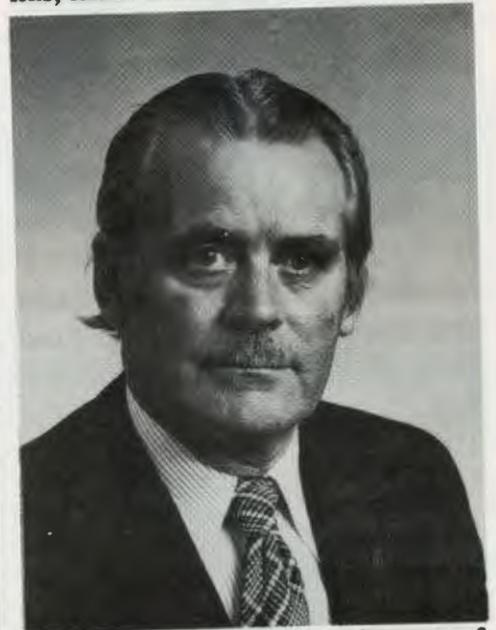
Nigel Drury ... worried about maintenance costs

Johnson to bring in his Parliament Bill later that same year. The inadequacies of the provisional building, despite additions and renovations over the years, was recognised by all members. Speaking in the 1974 debate Mr Drury (Ryan) remarked on its inefficiency and the cost of its maintenance. "When one walks along some of the corridors they shake and quiver and one wonders whether one is going through the floor. When it rains various parts of



Tom Uren ... "free hand for architects"

the roof leak badly". The Minister for Urban and Regional Development, Tom Uren, urged that once the decision on the site been made there should be no further delay in getting on with the job of building the new Parliament House "in a spirit of idealism tempered by commonsense". The architect, Uren said, should be given "every chance to exercise creative talents without undue constraints. The great buildings of all ages have been the work of gifted individuals who have been allowed to work in a way which gives their creative impulses scope for fulfilment". Nor did Mr Uren "want any hysterics as to the enormous costs involved". "I believe that a nation with the potential for expansion and development that Australia has, must make this decision".



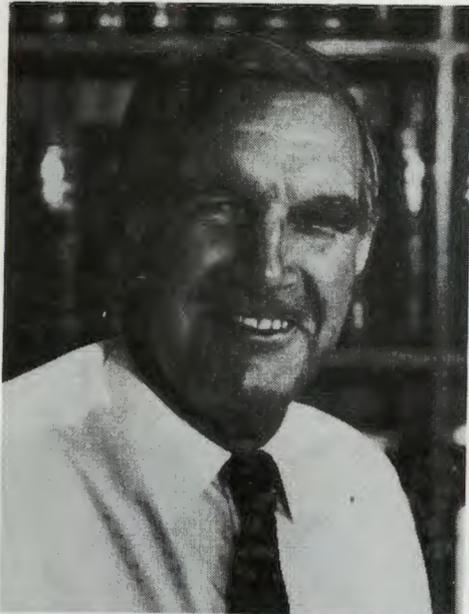
Bob King ... alarmed at changes of mind

The Country Party member for Wimmera, Mr King, found the continual debates and constant changes of mind about the site "rather alarming". King didn't really mind where the new Parliament was built, since most of the sitting members would not be pres-

continued next page

ent when it was completed, but he did appeal for the House to make up its collective mind once and for all.

Ian Sinclair urged some delay before coming to a conclusion. Fore-shadowing a debate that would take place 13 years later on the question of the Speaker's Chair, Sinclair said, "It is not easy to translate history from one place to another".



Ian Sinclair MP ... hard to move history

However, the Leader of the House and chief parliamentary wit Fred Daly, strongly supported the motion. "I have always been a Capital Hill man because the faith to which I belong always believed that a hill is the best place for real estate", he said. "I think Red Hill in Canberra is the only hill in Australia which is without one of my churches. "I contend that the new and permanent Parliament House, should be built in a place where it can be seen by all and where it would have the dignity that should be associated with a building of this kind".

It was a question also apparently in the mind of the Minister for Labor and Immigration, Clyde Cameron.

Speaking to an amendment, he was happy that it put beyond all doubt Members' right "of having a parliament house which has sewerage works leading away from it so that when one pulls the chain one knows that nothing will come up into one's face, or whatever happens when this sort of thing occurs".

The Parliament Bill was introduced into the Senate by Senator George Poyser (Victoria), and although the Senate had six times voted in favour of the Capital Hill site, it produced some lively and witty debate from those Senators who still favoured the Camp Hill site.

Senator John Button, for example, wanted Capital Hill left as "a pleasant hill shaped like a nubile breast which has been nibbled at by male chauvinist pigs".

Parliament, he said, should not behave like medieval churchmen or medieval barons by building on hills to defend or remove themselves from the people, or by seeking to dominate the city.

Senator Button was warmly supported by Senator Sir Kenneth

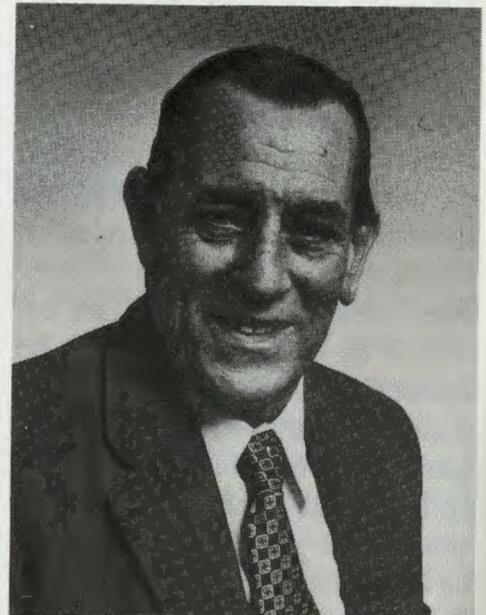


Clyde Cameron ... basics first

Anderson, who urged a return to Walter Burley Griffin's original concept. "The basic proposition is that a parliament house should be with the people.

It should be where the people are and should not be in the heavens", Sir Kenneth said. "When I think of the Capital Hill site I think of the expression: 'Abandon hope all ye who enter here'. It seems to me that it is isolating us from the people." Senator James McClelland (New South Wales) said that so far as the choice of sites was concerned: "I have always been 'camp' and opposed to presumptuous erections". And he warned all members of Parliament against the sin of hubris "which is a Greek word meaning the pride which cometh before a fall".

"I think that the same spirit is disclosed in those who want us to have a temple of democracy in the clouds somewhere on Capital Hill, where the masses will gaze up to



George Poyser ... introduced Bill in Senate

their masters, bow down to them, worship them and perpetuate the notion of British democracy at its height, of God bless The Queen



Jim McClelland ... "opposed to presumptuous erections"

and her relations and keep us all in our proper stations".

On the other hand, Senator Alan Missen (Victoria) rejected such arguments. They might have some point, he said, if it were proposed to erect Parliament House on, say, Black Mountain. But there was nothing wrong with having the national Parliament in a prominent position where the people could be uplifted and have higher aspirations, and, at the same time, enable Parliament to "assert its dominance over the administration and over the public servants".

Indeed, Senator Missen went on to suggest that as Canberra was itself somewhat isolated from the people of Australia, "it will not make the slightest difference, so far as that is concerned, whether the new and permanent parliament house is put on one hill or another".

Senator Don Grimes (Tasmania), agreed about Canberra's remoteness from the people, but came to a different conclusion. "It would be a great mistake to have us and our advisers stuck up there (on Capital Hill) in an even more remote posi-

tion".

Senator Ian Wood (Queensland) said that the architecture which stood the test of time was that which had "simplicity of design and the right proportions". Parliament could not go wrong by placing the new building on Capital Hill where everything in the parliamentary city would merge towards it ... "not in a spirit of dominance but simply merging".



Don Grimes ... concerned about remoteness

And in the event, the Senate voted in favour of the Parliament Bill establishing Capital Hill as the site for the new and permanent Parliament House. In 1975 a new Joint Standing Committee on the New and Permanent Parliament House was established, although the House of representatives resisted a move by the Senate to have the Committee also attempt to resolve the problems of accommodation in the provisional building. Such a move, the House felt, would divert the Committee from its primary task of developing a client brief for the new Parliament House. Gor-

don Bryant (Wills), spoke of the way that the functions of parliaments had changed from the past, and these needed to be reflected in the new building. While the Malaysian parliament house "looks well on a postcard" and the Indian parliament was a "vision of what a parliament house ought to be", they had been designed without much consultation with parliamentarians. The designs for Australia's new parliament, Bryant said, should be "a substantial advance on anything that has been produced so far anywhere else. I fondly hope that it will create a new style of architecture for Australia".

Construction Authority established

On November 22, 1978, the Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, announced the establishment of the Parliament House Construction Authority and the calling of an international competition for a design for the new building. The project cost was estimated at \$151 million in May 1978 prices, and the opening of the new building was to be a focal point of the 1988 Bicen-

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Ian Wood ... "simplicity of design and right proportions"

Quantity surveyors involved with new House since 1979

DONALD CANT, WATTS, HAWES & LEE Pty Ltd began their participation in building the new Parliament House in 1979, when Donald J. Cant & Associates were invited by several architects to become part of their consultant team for their entries for Stage 1 of the architectural competition.

From very preliminary sketch drawings, broad order of cost estimates were prepared, with one entrant expressing his future beliefs by doing away with the Senate.

Three of the entries for Stage 1 were successful and awarded prizes for being in the top ten designs. Two of these entries were selected to proceed with Stage 2 of the competition.

For this, measured elemental cost plans were required. Early in 1980 Don Cant travelled to New York to work with the Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp team, whilst John Watts worked with the Denton Corker Marshall team in Melbourne, which was all very hectic for some weeks before the closing date. In June 1980 the winning entry was announced and we were pleased and honoured to be part of that winning team.

Assessing the competition

For assessing the competition and for the design development and construction phase a separate cost planner was appointed. Donald J. Cant & Associates were retained on the architect's team as Project Quantity Surveyors, and for this role the joint venture firm of DONALD CANT, WATTS, HAWES & LEE Pty Ltd was formed between Donald J. Cant & Associates Pty Ltd and Rawlinson Forster & Partners (Vic) Pty Ltd. The architect's consultant team started up scattered in several offices in Kingston before settling into the headquarters in Endeavour House, Manuka, in April 1981. Initially the firm provided assistance to the cost planner preparing the schematic cost plan, with Don Cant, Keith Hawes and John Lee spending much time travelling to and from Melbourne, whilst John Watts moved permanently to Canberra.

After this, it continued to provide a back-up cost information service to the architect.

High staff turnover

In July 1981 John Watts and a small team started the major task, the documentation programme, which continued through to 1988. Over this period 65 quantity surveyors were employed, reaching a peak at one time of 30 in 1985. Some of these people already lived in Canberra, others moved from interstate and overseas to form a very cosmopolitan group, which at times had its difficulties with language, culture and methodology.

With the project being so large and demanding, there was a regular turnover of staff.

Some people were intentionally rotated: Neil Packham returned to Melbourne to be succeeded by Ian Lee and then John Hosken. Others found the project too long and monotonous, the scope of work limited, or Canberra not to their liking.

Over the seven-year period the tender documents were prepared in various formats, mainly as Bills of Quantities or Schedules of Rates for the supply of materials and labour for hundreds of different contracts under the fast track construction system.

The process of reviews adopted for all design and documentation with the draft document being scrutinized by the whole project team invariably meant the firm was forced to incorporate late changes to the final document. The whole office worked many a late night or weekend.

During the construction phase, when possible, the firm supplied quantity surveyors on the site. Being scattered around the site was never a satisfactory situation until some time in 1987, when our site team were housed together and assisted the construction manager to administer the contracts.

The company says: "With the completion of the project, we look back over an exciting era and are proud and privileged to have been part of the Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp winning team."

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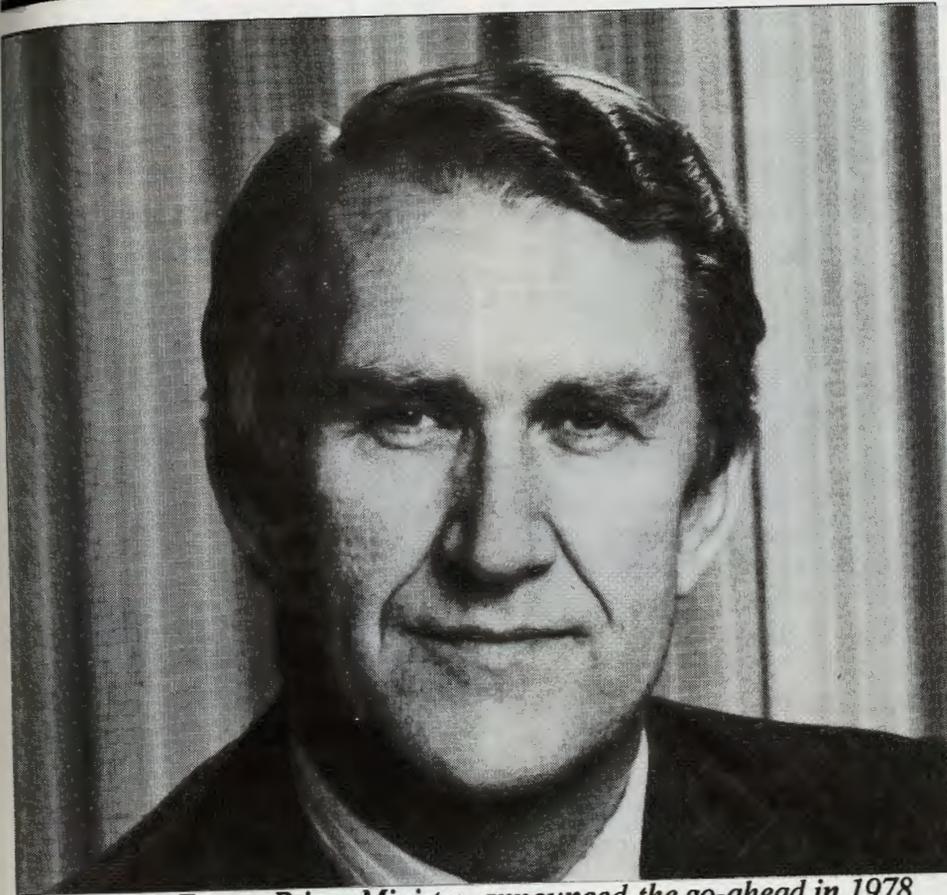
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**QUANTITY
SURVEYORS
FOR THE
NEW
PARLIAMENT
HOUSE**



Malcom Fraser, Prime Minister, announced the go-ahead in 1978

centuries.

“What we require in this nation is a building that will reflect the aspirations of this young, confident and successful nation, something that will endure and be an inspiration to future generations, reflecting the cultural aspirations of people of this generation.

“What we are seeking is not something that will be domineering but something that will symbolise the functions of a national parliament - that is, service to the community but, one would rather hope, reflecting a degree of taste and style that would be appropriate for a national parliament”.

Competition for design approved

The resolution to conduct the competition for a design came before the House just after dinner

continued page 25

tenary celebrations.

While Fraser acknowledged that there would be some inconvenience by not proceeding with short-term expedients to further modify the provisional building, he went on: “The new Parliament House which is now to be built will take its place amongst the other great buildings which symbolise our culture, learning and system of justice. “It will be the centrepiece of modern Canberra, the peak of the Parliamentary Triangle, the hub of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, a place in which the affairs of the nation can be conducted in a more efficient way”.

The Prime Minister was supported by the Opposition Leader, Bill Hayden, who remarked that the new building would not be one to serve for a few generations but one intended to serve the nation for



Bill Hayden, Leader of the Opposition, supported the decision

Melbourne-Canberra team's role in internal finishes

The Danby O'Connor Parliament House Joint Venture was awarded major contracts providing internal finishes and fitments to the Committee Rooms, Parliamentary Library, House of Representatives and Senate Accommodation. The partnership was formed especially for the project between Danby Contract Cabinetmakers Pty. Ltd. of Melbourne and the Canberra construction firm T.H. O'Connor Pty. Limited. A wide variety of specialised work was performed including walls, ceilings, cabinet-work, seating, wall panelling and joinery, floor finishes, parquet flooring, acoustic and monumental doors and frames, using many rare and beautiful timbers and veneers. At the peak of the project Danby-O'Connor co-ordinated over 300 trades people in four States.

Messrs. Bob Kay and Gary Danby, co-directors of the Joint Venture, congratulate the Parliament House Authority, its architects and other consultants and its construction managers on the completion of an outstanding building.

The generation of workforce pride, the incorporation of fast track programmes, supervision of precision tolerance and unprecedented quality control procedures have combined to produce one of the finest public buildings in the world.

The partnership is proud of its association with this project and congratulate individual team members for a superb effort in quality control and trade co-ordination.

T.H. O'Connor in Canberra since 1951

T.H. O'Connor Pty. Limited, now a division of Southern Pacific Hotel Corporation Limited, was established in the ACT in 1951.

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Danby Contract Cabinetmakers

Danby Contract Cabinetmakers Pty. Ltd. is incorporated in Melbourne and specialises in interior fitout contracting. Its staff is experienced in creating a link between site planning and factory manufacture as well as managing and employing large site installation teams with high quality control standards. Together with the Peter F. Danby Cabinet manufacturing factory in Melbourne a comprehensive service is provided. Established in 1946, the name Danby has been synonymous with quality furniture and fittings to the building industry.

Prior projects include the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney, the Regent Hotel Melbourne and Justices' Libraries in the High Court in Canberra.



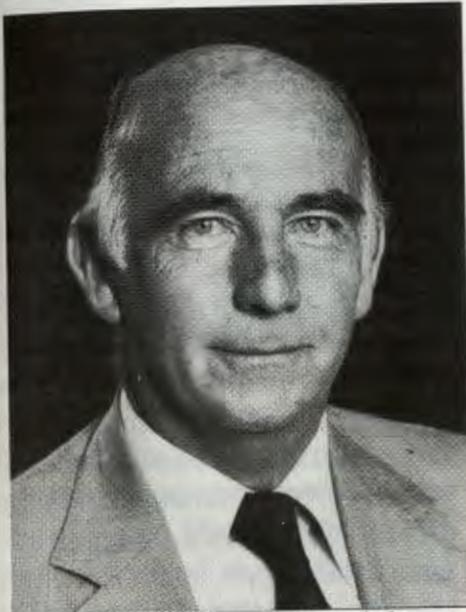
Danby-O'Connor Parliament House Joint Venture for Australia's new Parliament House

Danby-O'Connor are proud to have been associated with one of the great buildings of the world.

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on April 5, 1979. It was moved by the Minister for Home Affairs and the Capital Territory, Bob Ellicott, who observed that the two-stage competition had been recommended by the Joint Standing Committee after consultation with



Bob Ellicott ... initiated the design contest

the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

In the short debate that followed, all speakers drew attention to the historic nature of the resolution and expressed the earnest desire that there should be no further delay in the project.

Gordon Bryant (Wills), who was a member of the committee considering the requirements of a new building in the 1960s, said he hoped it would represent something of the Australian spirit. "The building of the new Parliament House is not just an architectural exercise", he said. "It is a very significant political and social exercise, and is not something to be executed merely on the drawing boards".

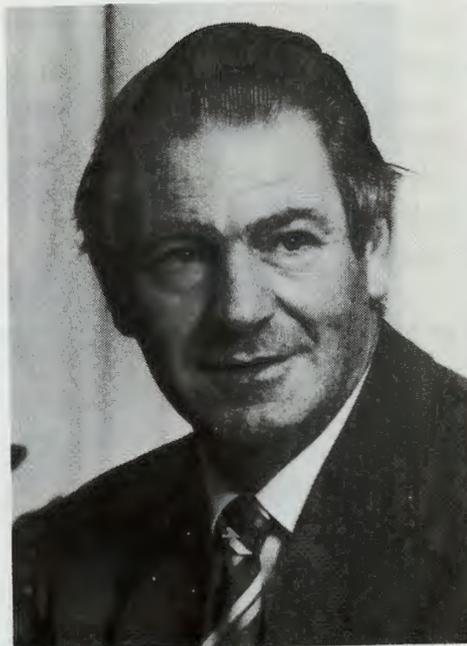
A former Speaker, Gordon Scholes, warned of the need for the architect to "understand the intricacies and idiosyncracies of the operations of a parliament" - not to



Gordon Bryant ... "not just an architectural exercise"

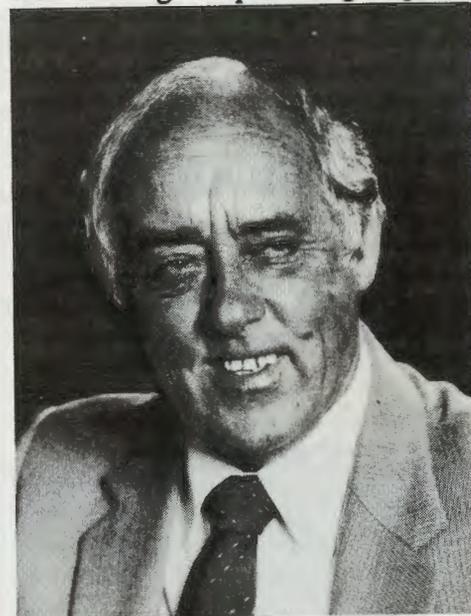
mention those of politicians, and the risk that with changing governments and day-to-day needs "we destroy what could be, and what I am sure will be, a building which is of major benefit to the nation on a long-term basis".

Les Johnson (Hughes) spoke of the opportunity that came to every generation to do great things. And even though the inclination to do great works seemed less apparent



Gordon Scholes ... "idiosyncratic needs"

in Australia now than it did a century ago, Johnson said that the building of the new parliament house was such an opportunity. Moreover, the decision was being taken "at a time when there is a great tendency to demean Parliament, where there is often mockery through the media and a disparagement of democratic processes ... it seems to me that it is in the interests of the great mass of ordinary Australians to ensure that enshrined in this new building is the principle that Parliament is supreme in our nation - not the people who manipulate the purse strings." Johnson said he hoped that there would be "great pulsating inspira-



Les Johnson ... saw a "rare opportunity"

tional factors" among the architects, so that everyone - including dissenters and demonstrators - could come to the new building and regard it as their own, enabling the voice of the people to "ring out and be paramount."

Design finalists

The first stage of the worldwide competition was launched two days later and on October 8, 1979 the

continued page 27



Wollongong Constructions Pty Ltd.

**is proud
of the part
it played
in the
construction
of Australia's
new
Parliament
House**

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Civil engineers have extensive role in Canberra development

Wollongong Constructions Pty Ltd, is a civil engineering construction company incorporated in the ACT, where it has operated since 1968. It is a private company, owned by the Da Deppo family who live in Canberra.

Originally the business operated from Wollongong, NSW. The company has grown from a small organisation to one of the biggest civil engineering contractors in Canberra.

It has built projects in the ACT ranging from trunk water mains, trunk stormwater pipeline and trunk sewerage mains, to arterial roads and bridges. One of its biggest projects was the construction of a 790 allotment subdivision in the suburb of Theodore.

Over the past four years, Wollongong Constructions has been engaged on the new Parliament House project.

Initially it supplied equipment for

the maintenance of site roads and carparks and crushing facilities at York Park. Major contracts since then have included:

bulk earthworks to the perimeter of the site;

landscaping to the House of Representative entry; and

landscaping to the executive entry. The contracts have had an approximate value of \$10 million.

The managing director of Wollongong Constructions Pty Ltd, Mr Os Da Deppo, said his company was very proud to have been associated with the New Parliament House project. He praised the administration of the project by the Concrete Holland Joint Venture, and said that the Parliament House Construction Authority was to be commended on finishing the project on time.

"The New Parliament House is a credit to all concerned," Mr Da Deppo said.





Gareth Evans ... a "huge sigh of relief"

five finalists and five other prize winners were announced. In the second stage, the five finalists further developed and refined their ideas; and on June 26, 1980, the chairman of the assessors, Sir John Overall, announced that the entry by Mitchell/Giurgola and Thorp had been chosen.

It was a unanimous choice. The design was one which, the assessors said in their report, was outstandingly successful in every respect, and represented a total design accomplishment quite beyond that achieved by any other entry in the competition. The winning design brilliantly blended together "the requirements of architectural efficiency, building feasibility and relative economy which the new Parliament House building must satisfy." The response from the media, most sections of the community and the politicians themselves was immediate and enthusiastic.

And it was with what he described as "a huge sigh of relief" that Senator Gareth Evans, who was a member of the panel of assessors, tabled the final report on August

21, 1980. It was, he said, less of a building and more of a small city that had been integrated into Capital Hill rather than "superimposed like a wedding cake on top of it." In this respect, indeed, Senator Evans noted that the fears of so many people that the new Parliament House would be a remote and inaccessible fortress had been totally unfounded in this design. He quoted from one paragraph of the assessors' report: "So far from the new Parliament House glowering down, forbidding and inaccessible, people will walk and children will clamber and play all over its roof." And for himself, Senator Evans added: "The reality is that the way the design has been put together people will be able to penetrate right into the heart of the building and will not feel in anyway excluded or intimidated by it."

Concerns on cost

On one point, however, Senator Evans was rather too optimistic. The cost was given as \$220 million at 1978 prices - an increase over the \$151 million stated by Prime Minister Fraser, which was largely due to the greater amount of space provided and the degree of excavation involved. But this, Senator Evans said, was considered by the Parliament House Construction Authority as "the projected realistic outside figure."

This costing was hotly contested by the Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Don Chipp, who with a greater sense of accuracy said: "I place on record that I am prepared to wager with Senator Evans that the cost of this building will exceed ... \$1000 million. A small amount of money can be put in a locked box and opened eight years from now. It can then be

given to charity if I am right." History does not record whether this was in fact accepted. But it was on the ground of cost, and the question whether such funds could be spent in a better way, that the Democrats opposed the building of the new Parliament House. On the other hand, Senator Chipp spoke of his amazement and pleasure that there had been no controversy about the winning design. It was, he said, "almost a miracle" to have an artistic creation in Australia about which there was no controversy. Yet Senator Chipp also spoke of his dilemma, of the self-defeating urge by Australians to go overseas when they wanted something really great, and of what he called "a massive incongruity" -- "We Australians have this goddamned city of Canberra, designed by an American, and now the New Parliament house is designed, and perchance will be built, by Americans. I just wonder why we cannot have more confidence in our own ability."

But it was with great confidence in

continued next page



Don Chipp ... forecast final cost

our abilities that work began on the building. Prime Minister Fraser turned the first sod on September 19, 1981, and the bulldozers moved in to remove the vast amounts of soil and rock from the hill and to prepare the site.

Yet, as Senator Chipp had noted, Australia would not be what it is were the building not to have its share of controversy. So it was, as the years of construction went by, that questions of cost, materials, the facilities to be provided for Members, industrial disputes, efficiencies, and the nature of the opening ceremonies were debated both inside and outside the Parliament. To some it was one of the finest and most exciting of contemporary buildings - a work of great art and at an estimated final cost of \$1027 million (vide Senator Chipp!) in terms of human accomplishment well worth the price of a couple of atom bombs. To others, notably the editorialists in certain newspapers, it was "a billion-dollar monstrosity", a "national scandal", and a "graffiti-covered pleasure dome now dominating our Xanadu" (*The Australian*, October 10 1987).

The provision of an "executive bunker" (never built), the squash courts and saunas, the lack of child-minding facilities, the physical remoteness of the executive from other Members not to mention the Press Gallery, the color schemes of the Chambers, the timbers chosen for the interior decoration, all provoked their share of discussion, argument, mirth and passion.

Speaker's Chair

Perhaps nothing created quite as much heat in the Parliamentary debating chambers than the decision, announced by Madam

Speaker on October 6, 1987, that the Speaker's Chair would not be moved to the new building.

Some 18 months earlier it had been decided that the Chair would make the move "up the hill". But in reversing this decision, Madam Speaker said, a majority of Joint Standing Committee (on the new Parliament House) had considered all the factors involved - symbolism, tradition the contemporary Australian parliamentary scene, the design theme of the new building and the practical issues involved.

The Chair, a replica of the original chair in the House of Commons, contains timber from Westminster Hall and Nelson's flagship HMS Victory and was a gift in 1926 from the UK branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association.

Joan Child acknowledged that it had been in use since 1927, during which it had become the central piece of the House of Representatives chamber.

Given that the Standing Commit-

... a "graffiti-covered pleasure dome ... dominating our Xanadu ..."

tee has recommended that the provisional building become a museum of Australian constitutional history after it has been vacated, Mrs Child suggested, "the chamber could become just another room" without the Speaker's Chair.

Opposition members strongly objected to the proposition.

The Leader of the Opposition, John Howard, agreed that "no

political party and no nation should be a total slave to tradition or history. But any parliament which on such flimsy and insubstantial grounds, rejects the most visible link that this chamber, this body of people, this body of representative Australians, has with the fountain of our parliamentary system, has insufficient regard to history and symbolism."

The Leader of the National Party, Ian Sinclair, noted that the Chair had been used as a model from which the present Speaker's Chair in Westminster had been designed following the bombing of the House of Commons during World War II. It was a symbol of parliamentary traditions, and the House would be the poorer if the custodian of those values were to "throw them aside."

And in a further reference to the Westminster system, Sinclair added, "...It is a victory for the Sir Humphreys of this place, the National Capital Development Commission or the Parliament House Construction Authority. If we are going to a new chamber, a decision not to protect a symbol of our origins would be a very unfortunate decision indeed."

Former Clerks of the House said they were astounded by the decision not to move the Chair and the Despatch Boxes to the new building, and presented a petition to have the decision reversed.

However, the Leader of the House, Mick Young, pointed out that the Chair had no inherent "magical influence" enabling politicians to perform better in its presence. The new Chair will be built in accordance with the design of the new chamber and Young found no difficulty with that - or with the proposition that the millions of

Australians who would one day look at the chamber of the provisional House as a museum would see it in its original state, complete with the Speaker's Chair.

The argument over the Chair may have been a small issue in itself. Yet it did have this significance: it illustrated the vigour and liveliness of the democratic process in this country, the commitment to debate and argument, proposition and opposition, by those elected representatives and the people of the wider Australian community.

Which is a point well worth making as Members of Parliament make the short journey to their new House "up the hill".

Whatever the neighbourhood, whatever the niceness of the views, however remarkable the quality of the design, the interior finish and



Mick Young ... no "magical influence in Chair"

efficiency of the plumbing, democracy does not consist of the external manifestations of a Parliament House. Rather, it is the furnishings of the minds of those who inhabit it that are important, and their inner devotion to the principles of free speech, the traditions of self-government and liberty of the subject to which we are all the inheritors.

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Preliminary tests have also been undertaken in the ACT courts.

For further information please contact the ACT Manager, Mr Mike Zarew on (062) 470400



WHAT CAN WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE NOW WE PAY 83% TAX?

On June 4th, 1987, the Federal Government agreed to introduce excise changes which reduced the overall tax rate on Esso's operations to 83%.

At least it's a start.

Basically, it enables us to reassess a number of projects that will slow the rapid decline in production of Bass Strait oil.

Every extra barrel we can produce means extra money towards Australia's balance of payments.

The Government's decision means Esso can also re-examine hitherto uneconomic projects.

For example, production at the Kingfish A platform has been restarted.

(It was mothballed in March '86, due to an unacceptable profit squeeze caused by the collapse in world oil prices and an overall tax rate of 94%.)



WE'RE INVESTING IN COSTLY EQUIPMENT TO MAXIMISE OIL RECOVERY FROM FIELDS WHERE THE WATER TABLE HAS RISEN TOO HIGH. BUT IT WON'T BE ENOUGH.

Kingfish A is now adding some 18,000-20,000 barrels a day. But it won't be enough.

TOO MUCH WATER, NOT ENOUGH OIL.

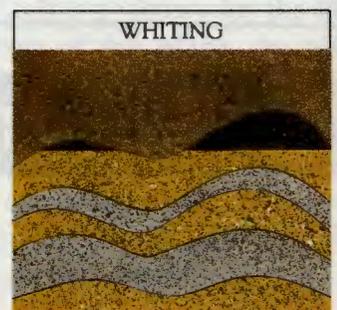
Over time, the water level in an oil well



rises to a point where water starts to be produced, with the oil, in increasing quantities.

If nothing were done, the flow-rate would

WE'RE PURSUING DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER, SMALLER OIL FIELDS, SOME OF WHICH ARE NOW COMMERCIALY VIABLE. BUT IT WON'T BE ENOUGH.



eventually stop altogether, leaving behind a lot of oil that might otherwise be recovered.

Esso is now able to make significant investments in the technology that can alleviate these problems and maximise output. But the extra oil produced still won't be enough.

WHAT ELSE CAN BE DONE?

We are also pursuing the development of other, smaller oil fields, some of which have now become commercially viable.

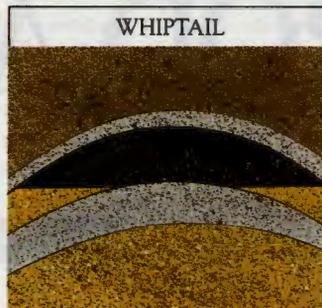
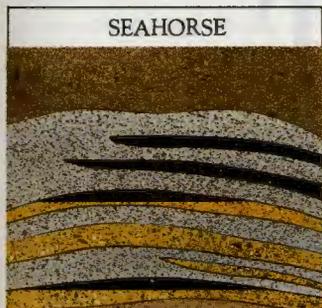
Feasibility studies are leading to decisions being made to proceed where the investments are sufficiently worthwhile.

Altogether, we could slow the decline



WE'VE RESTARTED KINGFISH A PLATFORM, WHICH IS NOW PRODUCING AN EXTRA 18,000-20,000 BARRELS A DAY. BUT IT WON'T BE ENOUGH.

in Bass Strait oil output by an average of 85,000 barrels a day, which could contribute around \$1 billion a year to Australia's balance



of payments. But we must keep this increased oil output in perspective.

Even the largest of the smaller oil fields is only big enough to meet Australia's demand for thirty-five days.

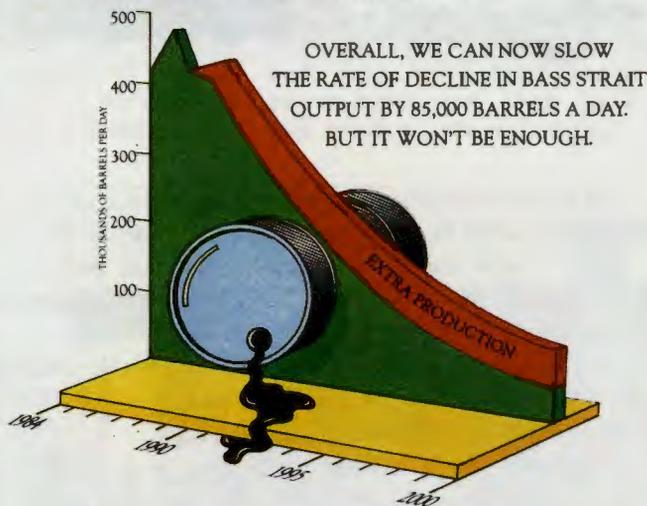
A glance at the graph shows that unless we discover further, substantial oil reserves to replace Bass Strait, Australia will inevitably rely more and more on imports.

Esso firmly believes that significant oil resources do exist, but at present there is precious little incentive to commit enough investment money to exploration.

The normal company tax rate is 49%. Any

new offshore oil discoveries still face a tax rate of up to 70%. Not surprisingly, this has the effect of driving investment out of the oil industry and even out of Australia.

The fact is, discoveries depend on exploration, exploration depends largely on investment and investment depends largely on the removal of tax disincentives.



For more information on this complex topic phone 212 0220 in Sydney or, from elsewhere, (008) 230 230 STD-free and we will send you a copy of the booklet 'When will the wells run dry?'



MORE COMMUNICATIONS WIZARDRY THAN YOU CAN POKE A BLACK ROD AT.



The communications requirements of government are as complex and varied as any organisation could possibly be.

Which makes the new Parliament House a perfect reference point for the diverse capabilities of Telecom Australia's consultants.

Some solutions were simple, many were solvable with existing technology, some had to be invented.

They went beyond telephony and data links.

An internal paging system supporting up to 10,000 receivers, which automatically switch off as members enter the parliamentary chamber (probably a world first).

Fibre optic links connecting the Television Operating Centre and the ABC to the House. And many other inventive

solutions to problems of security and the mass of communications to local and interstate offices and departments.

When the residents move into their new House they will find a smoothly efficient, comprehensive system of links that were all designed and installed by one highly creative communications company.

Telecom Australia.

And we are, quite candidly, proud of every cable and sensor and switch and facility.

One day soon we would like to talk to you about how that capability can be used to tackle your problems.

Having networked virtually the whole country and now the parliament, we look forward to the challenge.



Telecom Australia

Uniquely gifted team constructs new Parliament House

By David Chandler
Construction Director,
Concrete Holland Joint Venture

The Australian Parliament will soon begin moving into its new home.

Already many people have had a chance to see this wonderful new complex which will become the place of decisions to lead this country into the next century and beyond. Australia's new Parliament House has been designed by a uniquely gifted team which had the vision and sympathy to create a building which will work well for government, give ready access to all who visit and leave future generations with an inspiring symbol of our nationhood.

For our part the building focuses on many relevant aspects of the Australian Construction Industry. The building has attracted our finest levels of skill and quality.

Massive project size

Few imagined back in 1980 when excavation of our 1,000,000 cubic metres of rock commenced that a building of this subtly and magnificence would arise. The project statistics are impressive to say the least:

- o over 300,000m³ concrete
- o 23,000 granite pieces on the curved walls
- o 3,000 occupied rooms
- o over 7,000 doors
- o 42 lifts

- o enough glass to cover the Melbourne Cricket ground
- o thousands of miles of cables

But people, not statistics are what will be remembered about this building. More than 10,000 men and women have worked on site and 40,000 others have contributed. It is their craft, skills and commitment to excellence which will be seen and give pride to all who work and visit.

The magnificent timber, plaster and marble finishes are world class. Behind the scene, the work of plumbers air conditioning mechanics, electricians, concretors and

excavators have all played a similarly important role in the undertaking of this work.

"Fast track" method

The project has used management techniques which have allowed the building to be completed on time and within the approved budget. The "fast track" methods used on other major projects throughout the world ensured the building was completed several years ahead of other comparable systems, at a probable cost of \$350 million less than traditional contracting forms. The project has been able to return the flexibility needed by its client to make changes during the course of construction and to allow for the latest opportunity to incorporate "state of the art" technology.

There are other important aspects of the project which cannot be overlooked. The knowledge base and expertise gathered here will in time make a significant contribution to the Australian building industry.

Many products have been developed and refined, some of export potential. The project has contributed to the development of a quality assurance standard which will have an important impact on all new projects.

The project also won the Building Science Forum award in 1987 for its contribution to this field. Recently the project hosted a conference which looked at electronics in the modern building and examined the question "Where To From Here?".

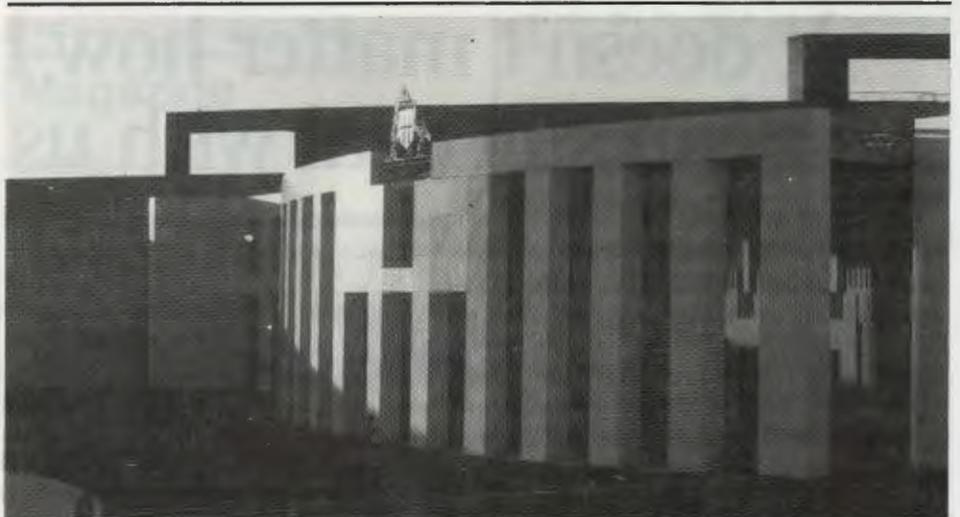
It is hoped that this conference and many other forums on the knowledge gained on this project will lead to new initiatives in our industry.

Goodwill and co-operation

This project has been conducted with an amazing amount of goodwill and co-operation. There are over 1000 organisations which have worked on site, from clients to designers, contractors to suppliers. There were over 32 nationalities represented on site; some of whom were housed in accommodation on the west side of Capital Hill when they first migrated to Australia. Over 15 unions have played a role in construction as have many authorities and industry employer associations.

Most will look back at this project as a happy and rewarding experience, feeling that they have made many friends as well as a significant contribution to the nation's heritage. There are far too many experiences gained over the last 7-8 years to recount all here, but they are all worthwhile.

We hope that you may meet some people from this incredible construction team in your community and that they may share these experiences and their pride with you from a job well done!



The Great Verandah



It doesn't matter how big we get, you can still deal with us, personally.

Even though we were one of the major contractors on the new Parliament House in Canberra, we haven't lost our "personal touch".

Over our 40 years of operation, we've built up a reputation for quality work. And although we've put our trademark on construction sites around the nation, we still want to deal with you - personally.

We cover all aspects of the construction industry including Contract Building, Construction Consultancy,

Design and Construction, Project Management and Civil Engineering.

Ring Ken McCurrach in Sydney, Jim Hanrahan in Canberra, Brian Varnam in Newcastle, David Thomas in the Illawarra or Tom Hughes if you live anywhere else in Australia to discuss your requirements

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Hughes Bros make their mark on Parliament House

The construction of the new Parliament House in Canberra is the most significant building project ever undertaken in this country.

Its unique design will make it a landmark in this country and indeed it will take a prominent place amongst the great buildings of the world.

Hughes Bros. was one of the main contractors involved in the completion of this building, an achievement of which it is proud. Their involvement in the completion of the project is substantial. It involves the co-ordination of construction of services and finishes in four major areas within the executive and public section of the building.

They include the main Entry Foyer and galleries (excepting marble) the public security and service areas in the northern part of the building, the Members and Guests Dining and Private Dining Rooms and Bars, Billiard Rooms, and perhaps the most exclusive zone within the building, the Prime Minister's Suite and the Cabinet Suite and their offices, lobbies, etc. Hughes Bros. scope of work within these areas ranges from plaster partitioning, ceilings and general carpentry and joinery to high quality joinery fittings, exotic fabric and timber wall panelling and marquetry inlay wall and ceiling panels. These works were carried to an extremely accurate tolerance and quality of finish that is unique to this building.

Brass has been used superbly to highlight the wall panelling. The variety and quality of finishes incorporated within the Hughes Bros. contracts has required great skill, co-ordination and careful planning. These finishes include the use of a great variety of Australian native timbers. Some were used in ways never envisaged before. Australian and Italian stone and marble has been incorporated into joinery fittings and wall and floor finishes. Brass doors and door frames requiring special finishing techniques were constructed for the Prime Minister's and Cabinet Suite.

To enable Hughes Bros. to achieve quality of joinery required to meet its commitments for this project, it had to substantially expand the operations of its joinery shop with an injection of \$1m to enable the setting up of special machinery. This included the setting up of a veneer pressing shop and paint shop and the upgrading of its wood working machinery. All veneers and feature doors were cut stitched and pressed at Hughes Bros. joinery shop. Individual paints were also produced.

Hughes Bros. experience as builders and co-ordinators have enabled them to combine the skills of the special tradesmen, craftsmen and technicians to successfully complete this project and thus meet the challenge of building one of the most significant buildings of our time.

The House Magazine

Rates

Subscriptions

The subscription rate is \$150 a year.

Advertising

Display advertising is available on both contract and casual rates, but is limited. We also run a "Portfolio" service, through which material is distributed with the magazine to its main target audience -- Senators and Members, heads of departments and authorities, senior staff of front bench members, the national secretariats of the major political parties in Canberra and heads of bureau in the Press Gallery.

For all advertising and subscription inquiries contact Box E160, Queen Victoria Terrace PO, ACT, 2600 - (062) 959 475.

Credits

Publishers: Rob Chalmers, Kenneth Randall

Editor: Jenny Hutchison

Printing: Koomarri Printers, cnr Lathlain and Wales Sts, Belconnen.

We appreciate the cooperation of the presiding officers, the Parliament House Construction Authority and Concrete Holland.

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RSL



The RSL and the Parliament

The first function held in the old Parliament House after its opening in 1927 was a meeting of the RSL National Executive, followed by a reception when the League made a presentation to the Duke and Duchess of York. Over the ensuing 60 years, the League has maintained close ties with Parliament House.

Historic meetings between League officials, prime ministers, Opposition leaders, and government ministers have determined the course of the repatriation entitlements for veterans, war widows and their children to the present time.

The League has also been active in making known its views of defence, immigration, constitutional affairs and the many matters of public importance that arise from year to year.

Consultation between all sections of Parliament and the RSL has characterised the development of policies to ensure that the national debt to the war disabled has been fairly discharged. The one notable exception was the May 1985 Economic Statement!

In 1966, the League presented to Parliament two benches, now in King's Hall, as a commemoration of its 50th anniversary and in recognition of the special relationship that has existed between the RSL and successive governments.

The League looks forward to maintaining this relationship in the new Parliament House.

To celebrate this occasion, the RSL will present a gift to the Parliament and people of Australia on 5 September 1988 in conjunction with the opening of the 72nd RSL National Congress.

For further information -

**Ian Gollings,
(062) 48 8915**

Institution of Engineers members played important role in new House

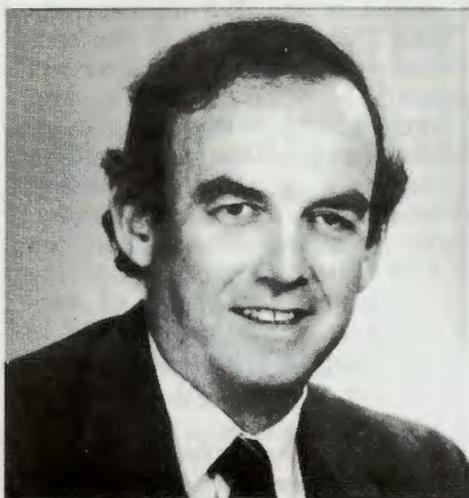
The Institution of Engineers, Australia has followed the construction of our new Parliament House with interest. And with pride. This is because many of the Institution's members have been closely involved with the design and construction of the new House.

Alex McLachlan, Managing Director of McLachlan Consultants which has been the Project Manager for the Parliament House construction, is also President of the Institution of Engineers.

Other Institution members have had important tasks to carry out in the construction management, architectural and structural consultancy, and in the various individual contracting work which has been carried out on the site.

Institution membership covers this wide field because it is one of the few engineering organisations in the world which represents all branches of the profession. This means it is able to speak with one voice for 43,000 engineers working in Australia.

As a learned society the Institution of Engineers acts to promote and advance the theory and practice of engineering in all its branches. Its basic objectives are to ensure that our society is well served by the profession, and to encourage and influence the development of Australia's technological capability.



Alex McLachlan

It believes our technological and engineering resources can significantly enhance our economic growth and maximise the well being of all Australians. To this end it advises Federal and State governments on engineering matters and represents the profession to both government and the community.

It was in this capacity that it made a response to the Auditor-General's efficiency audit report on the Parliament House Construction Authority.

Speaking on behalf of the Institution, its Chief Executive, Bill Rourke said that the new Parliament House has been an excellent and well managed project. "The fast-track method of construction, under a 'construction manager', was an ideal means of building the Parliament House. In the circumstances, and considering the time constraints of the job, there was really no alternative to this method of construction.

"Because of the complexity of large projects today, of which the new Parliament House is a good example, the construction management, or similar agency type arrangement, is here to stay," Rourke said.

In its response to the Auditor-General's report, the Institution pointed a misunderstanding on the part of the Auditor-General, of the basic characteristics of construction management type contracts.

"The report failed to recognise the construction manager as an agent of the client, rather than as an independent operator. In such an arrangement it could be said that the Principal acts as its own chief contractor. The construction manager - or the consulting engineer of architect - acts in a professional agency position vis a vis the principal, in this case the Parliament House Construction Authority. They then do their best professionally as an agent of the employer," said Rourke. "Many major contractors, when appointed construction managers, fail to make this transi-

tion and this is when problems can arise. In their initial agreements, the obligations of the two parties need to be very clearly spelt out." The Institution does not agree with the Auditor-General that every slip, every deviation from a perfect performance, should be evaluated and charged back to the professionally engaged agent.

This, says the Institution, contradicts the spirit of the agreement. Indeed, in the case of the Parliament House construction, if either the construction manager or the architect had been required to absorb all the costs of whatever errors might be attributed to him or her, then the fee for that work would have been many times more than that actually agreed upon.

"Of course performance monitoring is essential and we suggest that any programme of monitoring should be designed and implemented in a bipartisan approach," said Rourke.

The Institution has said that it would be happy to assist in the development of a monitoring programme. It certainly has the resources to make a valuable contribution. Many of its 43,000 members are actively involved in developing policy and priorities in a wide range of areas from road safety to space technology and from medical technology to robotics engineering.



Bill Rourke

Unique building opens on schedule

by Larry King

Director, National Affairs

Australian Federation of Construction Contractors

Australia's new and permanent Parliament House, the largest public works project ever undertaken in this country, is open on schedule. AFCC congratulates the Parliament House Construction Authority, the Concrete-Holland Joint Venture, the contractors and their employees on the completion of this unique building.

The new Parliament House is a tribute to the many skills that went into its erection, from the initial design to the superb finishes executed by Australian tradesmen and women. It demonstrates the advantages of a managed contract system using fast track building techniques - the "design as you go" methods which can reduce time and save money.

Local

Expertise

But ultimately the new Parliament House stands as testimony to the expertise of the Australian building industry and AFCC is proud of the fact that many of its members were so directly involved in the project.

Non-residential construction represents 8% of GDP - compared with mining 5% and agriculture 6%. It accounts for 35% of total investment expenditure in the economy and is a major indicator of the health of the economy. The industry directly employs 300,000 people and at least the same numbers indirectly. It pays out \$1.5 billion annually in wages and salaries. The industry is an active exporter, a fact which may surprise some.

Many of our top building and con-

struction companies are active in such parts of the globe as the Pacific, South East Asia, the Far East, the Middle East, the Indian sub-continent, and the United States. Australia's deserts, plains, forests and alps and our almost infinite climatic range have been a hardy provingground; if you can build it here, you can build it anywhere. The structure now on Canberra's Capital Hill is the beneficiary of that legacy of experience.

A Small City

It is more than a building, it is a small city with its barbers, bakers, banks, post offices, restaurants, sporting and leisure facilities, a medical centre, security, libraries, power generation, water supply, waste treatment and communications - all in addition to the legislative chambers, the public galleries



Larry King

and thoroughfares, the ceremonial and private areas and the offices of executive government.

The building is finished to a high and exacting standard throughout. That standard was facilitated by a quality system which broke new ground in construction quality management. The quality program extended to the use of mainly Australian materials and the many products of Australia's manufacturing industries with which the building is fitted.

Video

Presentation

The standard of workmanship prompted the making of a special video presentation to display the wide range of skills used on the job. The presentation will be used as a marketing tool here and overseas to demonstrate the capabilities of those who worked on this prestigious project.

The completion and commissioning of the new Parliament House comes in a year which AFCC believes is historically significant for the building industry as well as the nation. AFCC's market forecasts indicate that in 1987-88 building industry activity (measured by turnover) will reach an all time high in absolute and real terms. Non-residential building activity is expected to decline slowly over the remainder of the decade and into the early 1990s. Meanwhile, AFCC joins with all those involved in realising this unique structure and in celebrating its opening. It will be a source of continuing satisfaction to generations of Australians.

Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp -- architects for the new Parliament House

Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp Architects were formed in 1979 as a partnership between Mitchell/Giurgola Architects of Philadelphia and New York, and Australian-born Richard Thorp, in order to enter the international design competition for the New Parliament House.

Mitchell/Giurgola Architects had been founded in Philadelphia in 1958 by Ehrman B. Mitchell Jr. and Romaldo Giurgola, whilst Richard Thorp was a senior staff member of the New York office.

PARTNERS

Ehrman B. Mitchell Jr. retired from both the American and Australian practices in 1984. In America, Mr Mitchell is highly regarded for his services to the profession, having served as the National Vice-President and President of the American Institute of Architects from 1976-1980 with a lifelong interest in the campaign for professionalism in the practice of architecture. In Australia, his services were recognised in 1979 by the conferring of an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

Romaldo Giurgola continues to provide design leadership for all three offices of the American and Australian practices and has been the firm's senior partner-in-charge and principal design architect for the New Parliament House since its inception.

Mr Giurgola has spent six to eight months of each of the past eight years in Australia, the remainder of his time having been divided

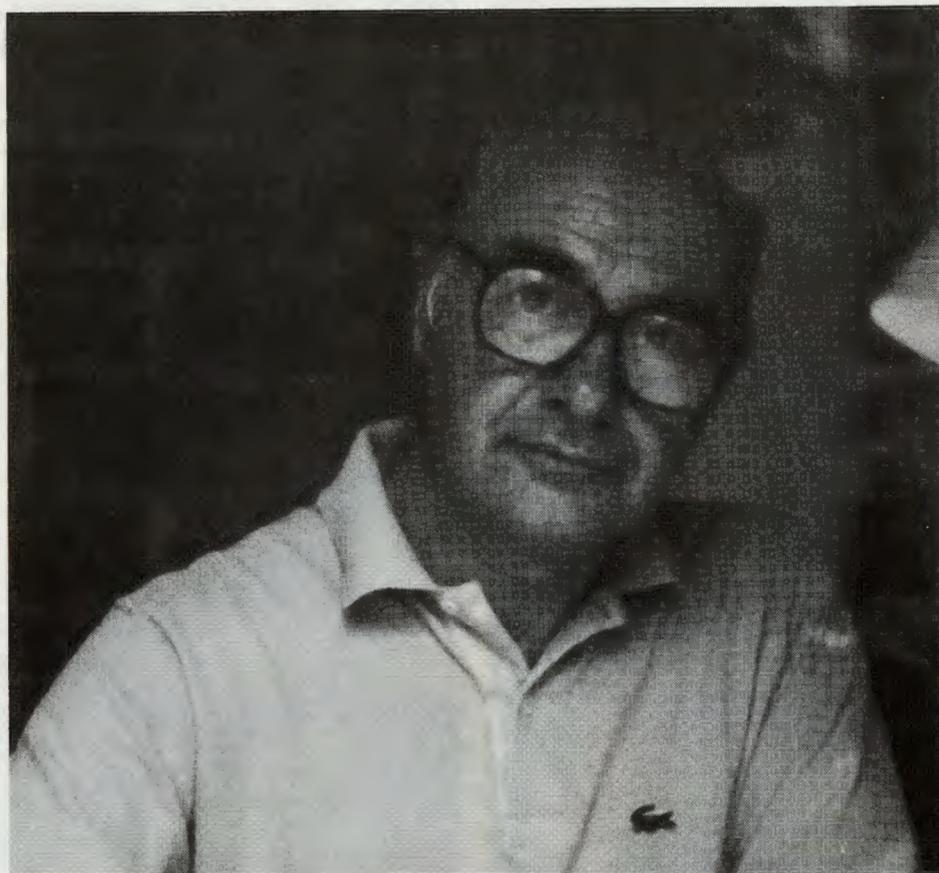
between Mitchell/Giurgola projects throughout the world and his teaching commitments as Ware Professor of Architecture at Columbia University in New York.

Mr Giurgola has received numerous awards for his work during his career, notably the American Institute of Architects' Gold Medal in 1982, the Thomas Jefferson Medal in Architecture from the University of Virginia in 1987, and, in 1988, the Distinguished Professor Award from the Associated Collegiate of Architecture Schools in the U.S. and the Gold Medal of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

Richard Thorp graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1967

and, since that time, has worked on projects in Australia, America, Saudi Arabia and the U.K. He first joined Mitchell/Giurgola Architects in 1971. He is the Project Architect for the new Parliament House and is partner-in-charge of the Australian practice. In this capacity, he has played a lead role in the planning of the New Parliament House and has been responsible for all aspects of the management, client liaison and administration of the architectural programme. He has also been actively involved in the architectural profession as a founding Councillor of the Association of Consulting Architects of Australia.

Harold Guida has worked with Mitchell/Giurgola Architects in Philadelphia since 1968 and is a partner of both the Philadelphia and Australian practices. Mr Guida has been resident in Australia



Romaldo Giurgola

lia since 1981, responsible for daily design leadership for the Project, working closely with Mr Giurgola and the design teams.

Rollin La France joined the Philadelphia office of Mitchell/Giurgola Architects in 1962 as one of the firm's first employees and has worked in the practice ever since, becoming a partner in 1973. Mr La France moved to Canberra in 1984 to become partner-in-charge of the Interiors programme for the Project following the firm's commission for that work.

Mr La France has been closely involved in the furniture programme in particular, providing daily leadership to the large team of architects, interior and industrial designers that make up the firm's interior group.

Senior Associates

Pamille Berg moved to Australia

from the Philadelphia office in 1981 and is both a Senior Associate of Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp and an Associate of Mitchell/Giurgola in New York. Ms. Berg has been responsible for the formulation and implementation of the Project's Art/Craft programme. Tim Halden Brown joined the firm in 1981 after ten years in firms in Australia and England and one year as officer-in-charge of Davis Station in Antarctica. Mr Halden Brown, a Senior Associate of the firm, is Senior Site Architect for the Project, being responsible for all aspects of the Architect's activities in the construction of the building.

Practice Profile

Mitchell/Giurgola Architects has completed over 200 projects in 100 cities throughout the world with major clients including IBM in the

US, Volvo in Sweden and nine major American universities including Princeton, Columbia, UCLA and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The firm is also highly regarded for its work in urban design, of which the consultancy to the Architect of the Capitol in the development of a 75-year master plan for the Capitol precinct of Washington D.C. is an example.

In 1976, the practice was honoured with the conferring of the Firm Award of the American Institute of Architects, the highest honour that can be bestowed by that body on a practising group.

THE FUTURE

In Australia, Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp will continue the practice on a national basis after the New Parliament House project is completed and the firm is currently working on proposals for projects in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Adelaide and Hobart.

The office in Canberra will be further complemented in April with the opening of an office in Sydney, coinciding with the commencement of construction of the first project by the firm in that city.

Over the eight years of the project's life, some 250 architects and other professional and administrative staff have worked in the Architect's office, drawn from all over the country and elsewhere in the world by a common desire to work on the new Parliament House. The great majority have been Australian, although Belgium, Burma, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Laos, Malta, New Zealand, the Philippines, Poland, Rhodesia, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States have all been represented by past and current employees.



Richard Thorp

Parliament House -- the profession's review

by Don Bailey

**National Executive Director
Royal Australian Institute of
Architects**

Ask anyone overseas what they know of Australian architecture. In the early sixties anybody who had an opinion at all would probably have referred to the Academy of Science (designed by Grounds Romberg & Body), the elegant dome with the inset arcade surrounded by a moat, on Canberra city's fringe. Later on, in the early seventies as the "harbour sails" imaginary of Utzon's Opera House shells emerged on Bennelong Point, THE Bridge, previously symbol of Sydney - and perhaps Australia - began to take second place to the most prominent and controversial architecture statement in Australia, if not the world. Both of these buildings were the results of architectural competitions whereby architects submit designs to a carefully prepared brief, at significant cost, with little or no chance on reimbursement, in the hope of being selected for the commission.

This system was the means by which American architect, Walter Burley Griffin, came to design our National Capital.

In September 1977 the architectural profession, through the Royal Australian Institute of Architects made strong representations to the Parliamentary Joint Committee of the new and Permanent Parliament House, to consider conducting a competition to select a design and through this, an architect, for the new House.

Resistance to Competition

There was initial resistance as the controversy surrounding the de-

sign and cost of the Sydney Opera House was still fresh in the minds of those charged with procuring this most important but politically vulnerable, project.

They had other ideas. After considerable advocacy the RAI A proposal was accepted and the National Capital Development Commission prepared conditions in collaboration with the Institute to ensure that optimum support would be forthcoming from the profession, that proper safeguards were in place, and that the outcome would be an unqualified success.

The architectural profession, in preparing design submissions, contributed a great deal towards exploring the options.

There were 32 entries in all, and at an estimated average cost of \$100,000 per entry this represents a donation of \$33 million of professional design skills towards the project.

There can, of course, be only one winner, and the selected design met with almost universal acceptance, by the profession and the community.

Now, another American, Romaldo Guirgola, has exerted a profound influence on the landscape and built form of our National Capital. This crowning glory built into Capital Hill is and will remain a fitting symbol of our cultural development and maturity after 200 years of settlement.

As a result, world attention will increasingly focus on Australia, and Australian architecture in general will take its rightful place in high international regard.

Fanfare composed for opening ceremony

The Parliamentary Fanfare, The Monaro, by Nigel Westlake, was arranged for the Fanfare Trumpets of the combined Royal Australian Navy Band for the opening of Parliament House. ABC Radio commissioned the Fanfare while Nigel Westlake was Composer-in-Residence to their Music Department in 1987.

The young Sydney composer's residence was one of three inaugurated by ABC Music in 1987 with financial support from the Australia Council. Nigel Westlake's Monaro Fanfare is the first new parliamentary signature tune since 1952. The universally recognised ABC News theme, the Majestic Fanfare, these days rendered in a modish electronic treatment, was the original parliamentary broadcast theme. Both the Majestic Fanfare and the fanfare Royal Event which replaced it in 1952 as the parliamentary fanfare were by British composer Charles Williams.

Nigel Westlake is a 31 year old clarinettist and composer who studied at the NSW Conservatorium and with his father Donald Westlake, the former principal clarinet with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. He studied film music with the Australian Film & TV School and composition in Amsterdam in 1983.

Since 1975, Nigel Westlake has performed with major orchestras and ensembles all over Australia and in 1987 was invited to become a core member of The Australia Ensemble.

He formed a duo in 1986 with the percussionist Michael Askill for the performance of original composition featuring wind, percussion and electronic music technology. The duo has been invited to tour the United States in late 1988.

Nigel Westlake has received commissions from the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Synergy Percussion, The Canberra Guitar Ensemble, and the Australia Ensemble. He has also written a considerable number of film scores.

Gordon Peatey: chief executive

Gordon Peatey is the Chief Executive of the Parliament House Construction Authority (PHCA) - the statutory authority established by the Australian Government to manage the design and construction of the new Parliament House in Canberra.

Born in England in 1926, he is a naturalised Australian. On completion of his education at High Wycombe Royal Grammar School he served for three years in the Royal Navy during the latter war years. Upon demobilisation he was accepted into a government two-year Business Management College which provided both theoretical classroom studies and "hands on" practical experience in industry.

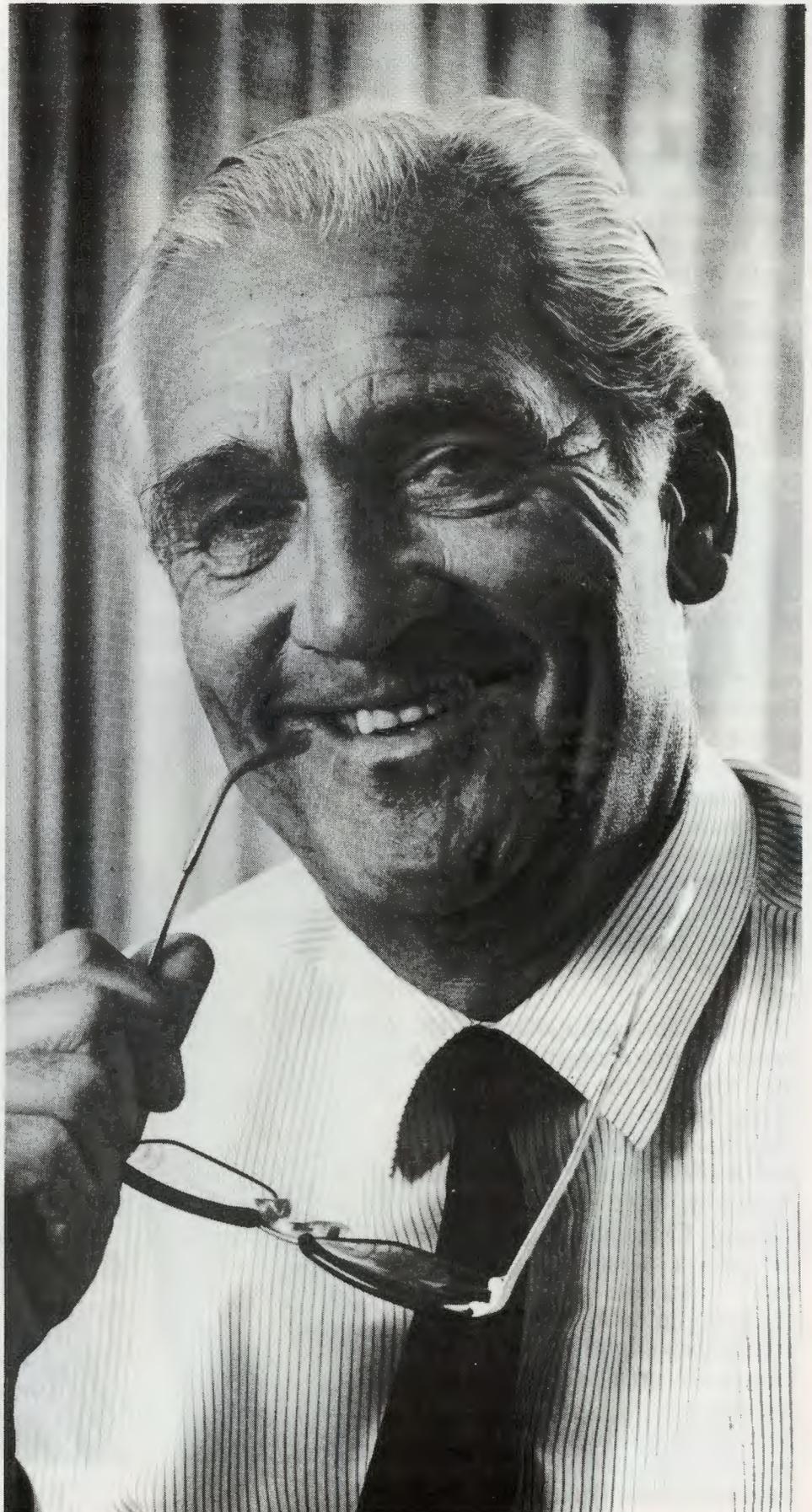
His subsequent career development was with the Matthew Hall Group of companies. He participated in the dramatic growth of the organisation from a comparatively small UK-oriented specialist mechanical and electrical sub-contracting company to a major international group undertaking the design and construction of massive energy-based projects throughout the world.

During this time he progressed through various management roles, becoming Director and General Manager of the Group's process plant subsidiary and ultimately achieved membership of the parent company's Board of Directors.

In 1968 he accepted the position of Managing Director of the Group's subsidiary companies in Australia.

His involvement with the PHCA commenced in 1980 and since then he had overseen the formation and development of the team which brought the project to fruition.

Right: Gordon Peatey



David Chandler: construction director

David Chandler is the Construction Director of the Concrete-Holland Joint Venture which is responsible for the construction management of the Parliament House.

Born in 1950, he was educated at Trinity Grammar School in Sydney and graduated (Bachelor of Building) from the University of New South Wales. Mr Chandler gained his early experience as a Building Cadet with a Sydney company in the late 1960s before returning to full time studies.

He joined Concrete Constructions in Sydney in 1972, and worked as general foreman of two of the company's large scale projects, the Banque National de Paris and the Challis House Refurbishment between 1972 and 1974.

Mr Chandler was then employed as project Manager on a number of major undertakings, including the Bondi Junction Plaza, the Macquarie Shopping Centre and Centrepoint Extensions.

He became an Associate Director of Concrete Construction in 1981 and for the ensuing three years took responsibility for the development of such large scale projects as the Quay Apartments and the second stage of Campbelltown Hospital.

Mr Chandler was appointed a Director of the company when he took charge of the new Parliament House project in 1985. His responsibilities include liaison with the Parliament House Construction Authority, 500 contractors and staff. Mr Chandler is a member of the project managers' Forum and was instrumental in that organisation's staging of the first conference in the Parliament House, in March 1988, dealing with the electronics in the building.

Mr Chandler will continue with the project until its completion and following this will take responsibility

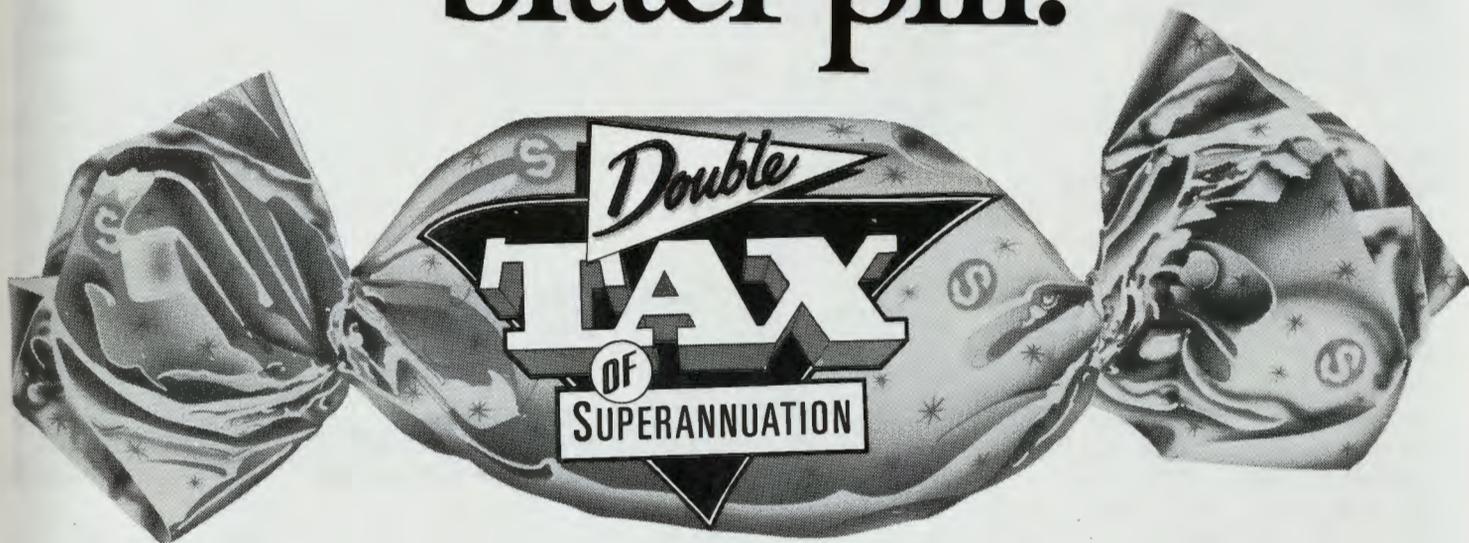
within the company for the examination of future opportunities for building industry products. He has a special interest in im-

proved management systems for product delivery, quality assurance and export opportunities for construction expertise.



David Chandler

Why today's sugar-coated lolly would be tomorrow's bitter pill.



Superannuation is already taxed—when people receive it. The same as other tax.

To tax the income of the fund as well would be double taxation. And it's not the sugar-coated attraction it appears.

Even the \$3.1 billion estimate of foregone tax revenue has a false coating. Published independent research places the true figure at half that.

From here on, the attraction loses flavour quite rapidly.

Superannuation forms a vital part of Australia's retirement system. Taxation of superannuation fund income would be a massive disincentive, with serious implications for both the social welfare bill and the Government's revenue.

Superannuation is a major provider

of long-term investment funds for Australian industry. Additional tax would significantly reduce this.

And furthermore, double taxing of superannuation would mean the progressively ageing population would become a burden on the nation's reducing workforce.

This is just a taste of the issue. To find out more, call our Government Relations Manager, Peter Monaghan on (03) 616 3111. He'll be pleased to send you our book 'The case against double taxation of superannuation.'

Our reasoned arguments to totally reject double taxation might not be sugar-coated. But they're not a bitter pill either.



New Lighting System for Parliamentary Zone

At 6.30pm on Wednesday 20 April 1988 the Minister for the Arts and Territories, Mr Gary Punch, inaugurated a new lighting system for the Parliamentary Zone, with a new-style light fitting especially designed for and unique to the Zone.

The President of the Senate, Senator Kerry Sibraa, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mrs Joan Child, jointly turned on the first 60 lights which have been installed on the Land Bridge to the new Parliament House.

National Capital Development Commissioner Malcolm Latham commented: "They have been specifically designed for the zone. Combined with modern technology, which provides a remarkably efficient fitting, is a design of elegant, classical proportions. The pyramid base and three supporting legs reflect the shape of the Parliamentary Zone triangle, while the finish of the concrete and metal work matches the new Parliament House.

"The faceted glass reflector on top of each fitting will provide uplighting to trees, flag poles and buildings, making these aspects of the Parliamentary Zone better able to be appreciated at night.

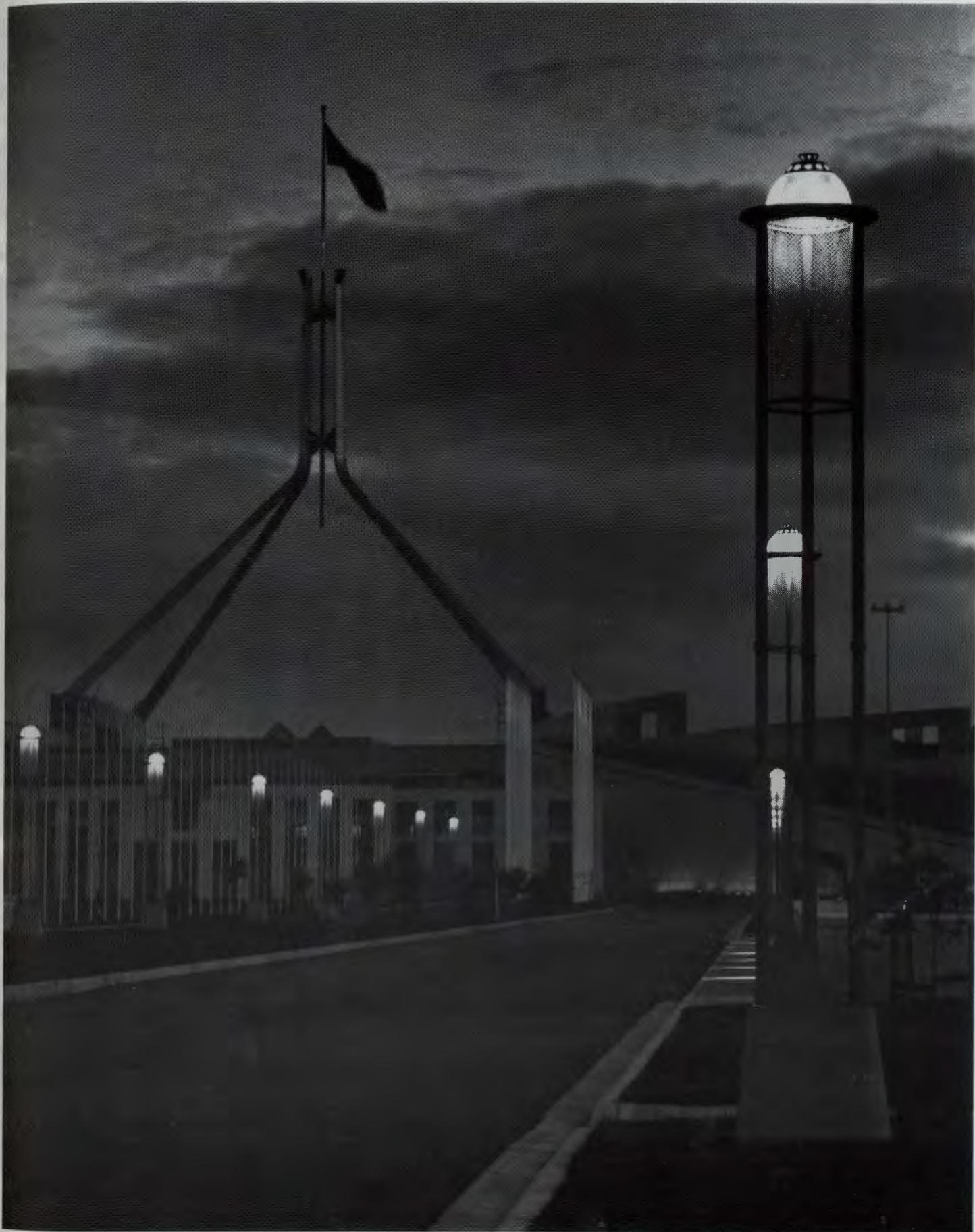
"Added emphasis will be given to the concept of the Parliamentary Zone by the orientation of the lights. They will always have one side parallel to the road they are lighting, while on the central axis the apex will point to the dominant Parliament House".

Later this year, the new lights will be placed around the National Science and Technology Centre and at the National Library.

RIGHT: (Top) The Great Verandah at night and the House of Representatives chamber with its exceptional lighting system. OPPOSITE PAGE: The new lighting system for the Parliamentary Zone.

Picture — NCDC





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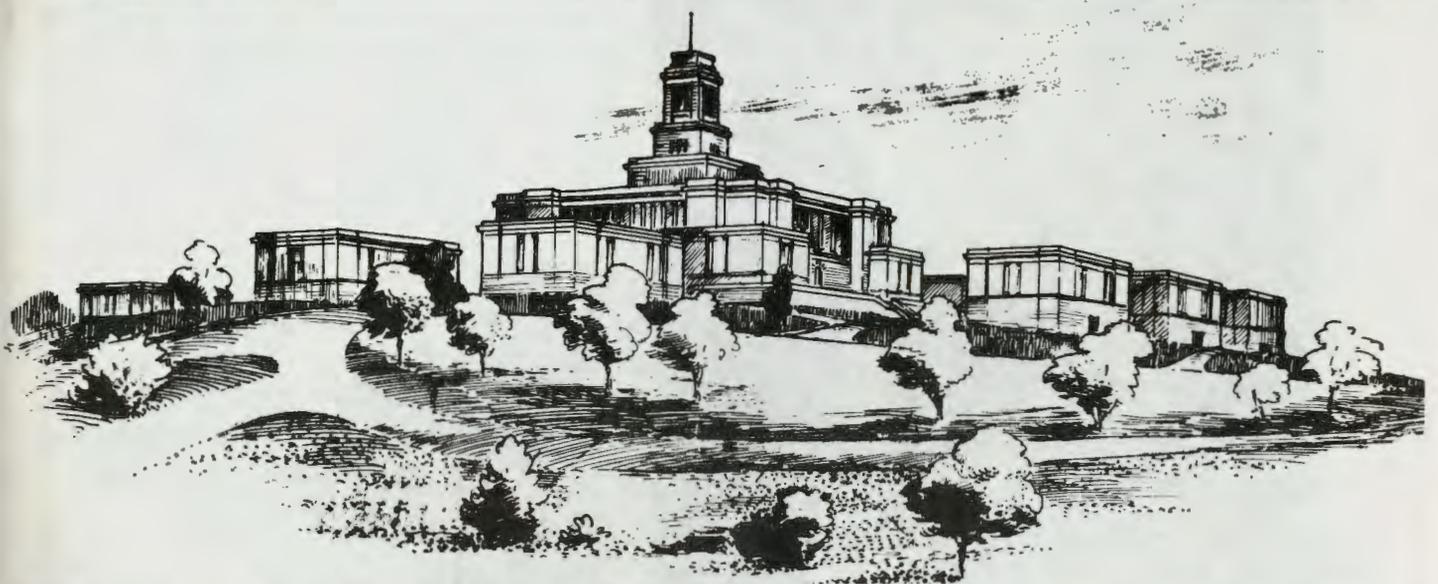
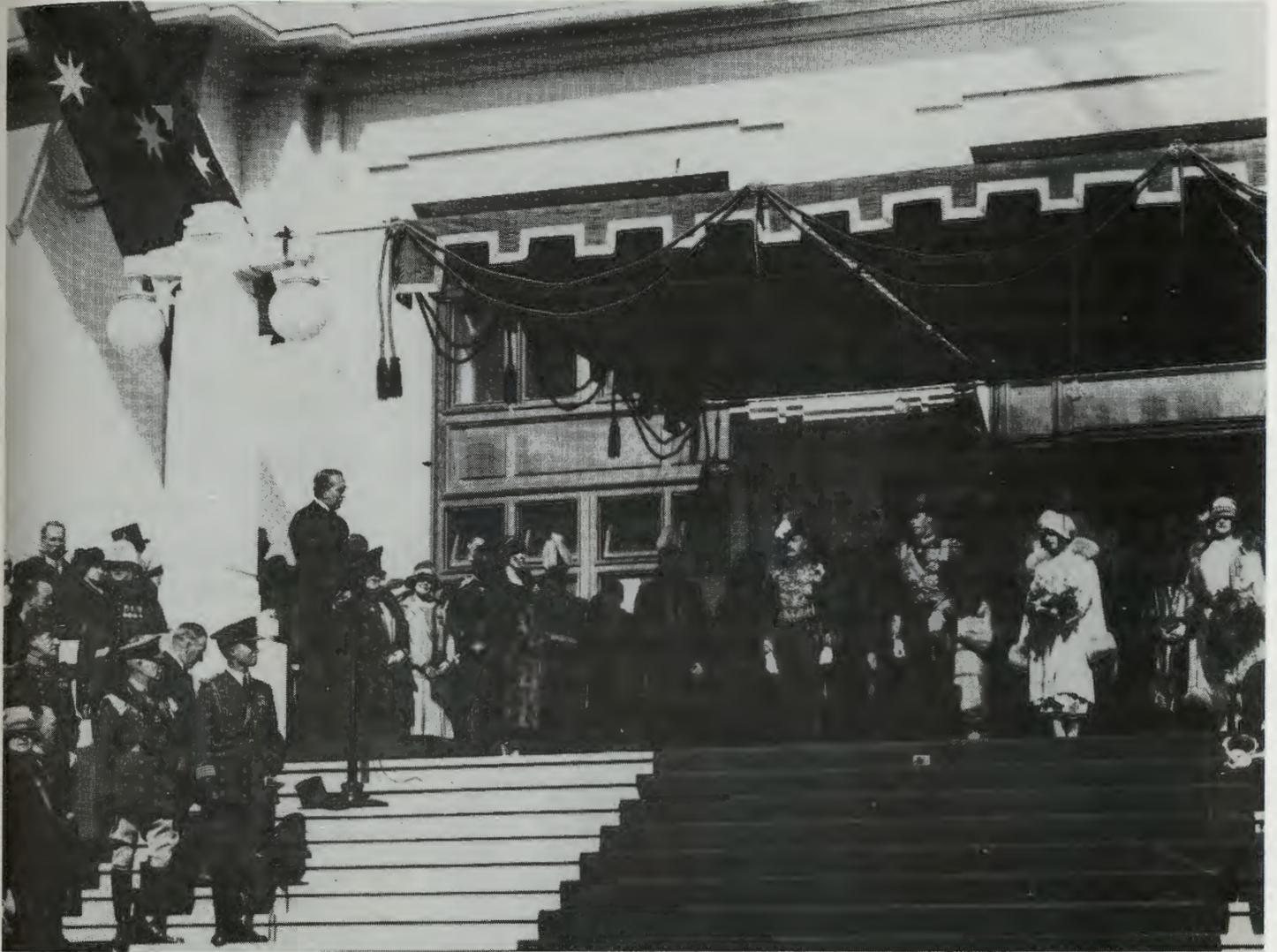


This aerial photograph, taken on 27 February 1988, is one of a series produced annually since 1980 by the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group (AUSLIG), Department of Administrative Services.

The photographs chronicle the construction of the new Parliament House on Canberra's Capital Hill and have been incorporated into a coloured poster *Parliament House rising* (100cm x 70cm) to be released in conjunction with the official opening on 9 May 1988.

Copies of the poster can be purchased from AUSLIG Information and Sales Unit, Wing 3, Cameron Offices, Belconnen or by writing to PO Box 2, Belconnen, ACT, 2616. (Telephone: (062) 52 6383).

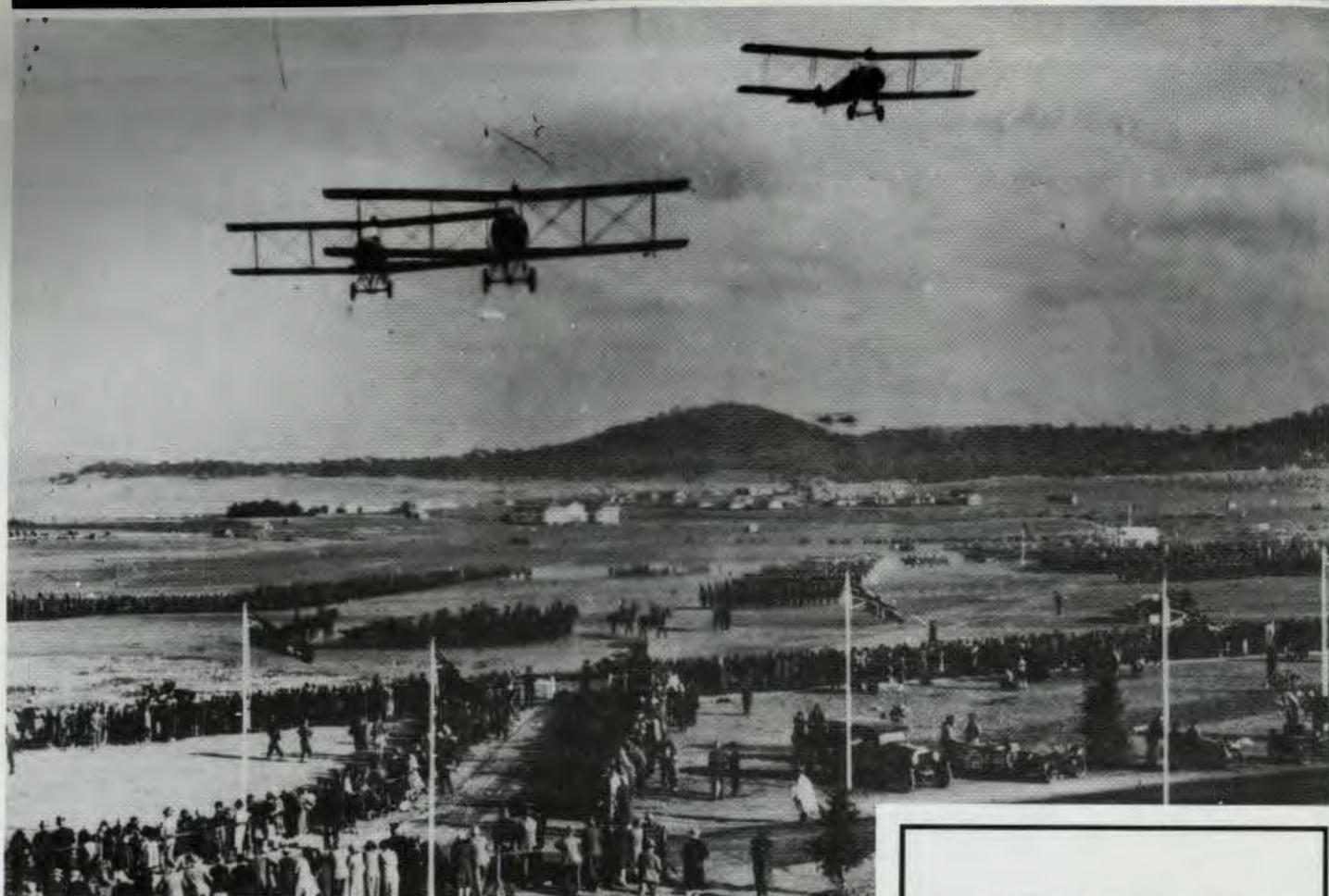
Looking back: opening day in 1927



TOP: Prime Minister Stanley Bruce addressing the Duke and Duchess of York at the opening of the provisional Parliament House, May 9 1927. Dame Nellie Melba later sang the first verse of the National Anthem.

BOTTOM: Sketch design of the proposed permanent Parliament House, 1923. The design was not built, the government deciding instead on the provisional building.

(Pictures courtesy the Australian Archives)



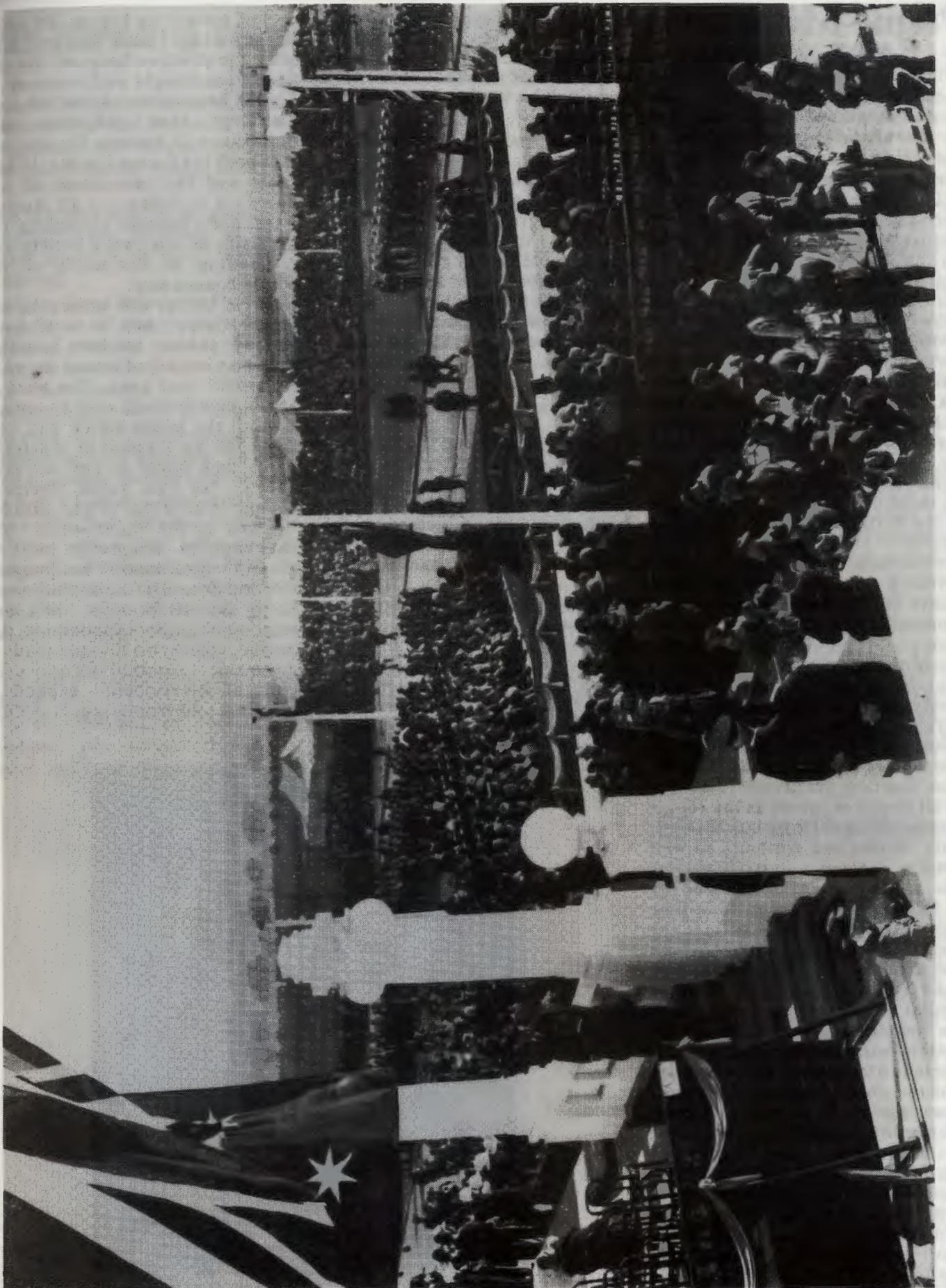
TOP: RAAF flypast at York Park, Canberra, after the opening of the provisional Parliament House, May 9, 1927.



LEFT: The Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) caught informally during the opening ceremonies of the provisional Parliament House.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Awaiting the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of York for the opening of the provisional Parliament House.

(Pictures courtesy the Australian Archives)



Prime Minister's Opening speech

At a time like this each one of us will have some thoughts of the ghosts, or spirits, of the past. At the most remote level, we are reminded by the historians and archaeologists that this region has nurtured human habitation for at least 21,000 years.

The aboriginal civilization and culture that developed from those earliest times was so quickly disrupted after the arrival of European settlers that we do not even know with precision what they meant by their word "Canberra". Certainly, one version is that it meant a meeting place. So it seems that this place, by its geography and the actions of its inhabitants has been a natural meeting place for countless generations. But we think too of more recent spirits.

We think of those in the first abode of the Parliament of the Commonwealth - the first 27 years in Melbourne's Legislative Council building - so many of them the giants of the Federation conventions which gave birth to our nation.

We think then of those who over the next 61 years have graced what surely must be one of the more durable "temporary" Parliament Houses in the history of democracy. The names are too legion to mention. But they are certainly not for us all ghosts or spirits as the robust presence today of Whitlam, Gorton, Daly, Killen and Anthony so well testify.

I do, however, mention one who for so long dominated our long-time temporary residence. I believe the spirit of Sir Robert Menzies, whose commitment to the concept of Canberra as a truly great national capital should be respected across the political spectrum, would be smiling with approval today.

These intimations of our mortality and the presence of the Treasurer remind us of the paradoxical truth that in life the only certainties are death and taxes. And so it is true that just as we have looked with some wonderment at Tom Robert's remarkable painting of the guests and members in the first Parliament in Melbourne, so future generations will look at photographs and films of today, remark on the quaintness of our style and cos-

tume, and ask - of us - "What was in their minds on that momentous occasion?" And what will our answer be?

I hope it would be something like this:

- That we have a feeling of deep gratitude to all who are responsible for this great and imaginative building - to those who conceived and designed it, to all who by the labour of their mind and body have made it the remarkable reality it is.

- That we do feel a sense of history and indebtedness to those who have fought in war, and in peace, to ensure the survival and the enlargement of the democratic principle.

- That we understand the danger of taking for granted the continuing survival of this principle in a world where so many people have succumbed or been subjected to despots to whom the concept of a parliament of the people is anathema.

- That we therefore understand the awesome obligation that is upon us. For those in the new Parliament this will be an obligation to recognise always in the conduct of debate that whatever their views, their ideology, their Party, they are

part of something bigger - an institution which must endure long after the divisive issues of the day have been fought and resolved.

- That because we know we will discharge that obligation this building will become for our nation both the forum for our differences and the instrument of our unity - a building for all Australians, a Parliament reflecting the diversity of our entire society and responding to the needs of the whole community.

If these things are indeed in our minds today then it will be a worthy answer to that question that may be asked about us when we are all long gone. For none of us can now foretell with any precision all the issues which will confront the Parliament of Australia in its new home in the centuries ahead. We face rapid, dramatic change in all areas of our national life and in the wider world. The challenge of adaptation will be great, the problems often complex, the decisions difficult. But we do know this to be true. This new meeting place, this Parliament, like the old, represents that principle of government - indeed the only principle of government - capable of meeting, and mastering, that challenge.



The Prime Minister

Mr Howard responds to PM

I am very happy indeed on behalf of the Liberal and National Parties to support the warm words of welcome from the Prime Minister.

This is a very special occasion. It's an Australian occasion. It celebrates so much of what we have achieved.

It offers hope about the future. It reminds us of the parliamentary giants of the past. And it reminds us of the uniqueness of the Australian achievement.

Two hundred years of tolerance and progress is brought together in a gathering such as today, which is such a blend of the old and the new. It's a day tinged with nostalgia as many of us look down at that great building which has witnessed so much of our history since 1927. We are reminded as we look beyond it to the War Memorial of the blood and the sacrifice of those that have kept this country free. And we look from this building with hope to the future.

It is also, Ma'am, an occasion to celebrate our membership of a wider being and existence, and

that is the great world wide institution of parliamentary democracy. We are part of nine hundred years of parliamentary tradition. Whatever may now be the diversity of this country and the enrichment of it through that diversity, we owe a great debt to the genius of British parliamentary democracy and the contribution that democracy has made to the moulding of this country and to so many other countries. Part of that tradition is to be generous about the contribution of all strands of opinion. It's representative of that that today's Parliament is opened in the presence of you, the Leader of the Australian Labor Party. The decision to build this Parliament was made under the Prime Ministership of Malcolm Fraser, who is present with us today. I trust and I know that I speak on behalf of everyone in this gathering and throughout Australia in expressing the hope that this building will fulfil the aspirations of all people for good, honest, fair and progressive government.

Finally, through your own presence, Ma'am, as with your father

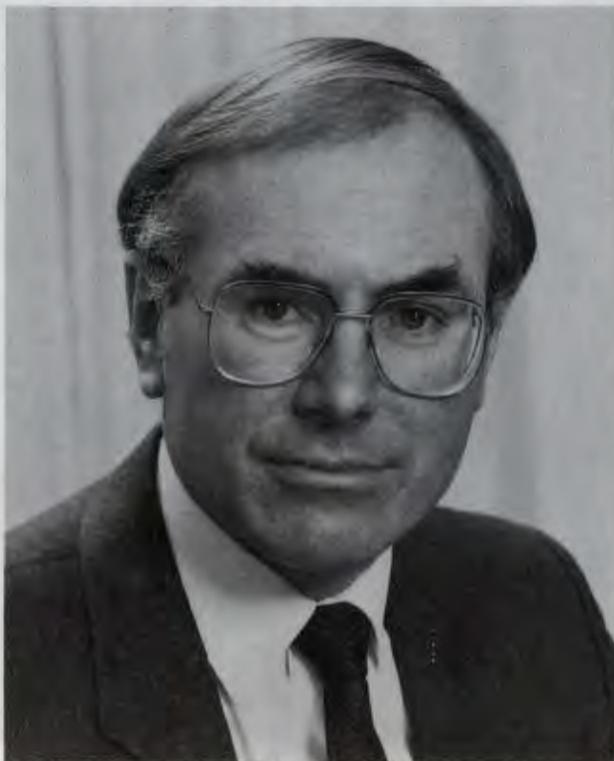
and your grandfather successively present at Melbourne and in Canberra in 1927, you with your presence remind us of the integral role that the Crown has played in the development of our parliamentary system of democracy.

Through that nine hundred years your ancestors, some of them quite vigorously, have tangled with the struggling emergence of the parliamentary system.

It is with a real delight that we have you here today. Thirty-five years have now passed since you came to the throne. That period of time has seen astonishing change not only in Australia but throughout the world.

The decades of the 1960s and 1970s have been probably the most cynical and skeptical of modern times. Yet through all of that your institution and you yourself as a person have retained the respect and the admiration of millions of people throughout the world.

You are here today as a friend, you are here today as the pinnacle of our democratic system of government and you are here today as an integral and enduring part of the great parliamentary tradition that we all celebrate today.



Mr Howard

\$5 coin marks House opening

The Royal Australian Mint has struck a \$5 coin to commemorate the opening of the New Parliament House. Because it is a special striking of the coins in proof form, the Mint is anticipating a quick sell-out. Orders can be placed by mail or by purchase from the Royal Australian Mint at its Deakin headquarters in Canberra. The aluminium bronze coin was designed by Stuart Devlin and depicts the elegance of the design of the new Parliament House. Proof coins are struck from highly polished dies. The flat surface of the coin has a mirror-like finish and the raised surface is delicately frosted. Once minted, the dies are destroyed. The proof coin is presented in an elegant gift box and can be purchased for \$28.00.

President stresses Crown link

Your Majesty, it is a very great honour and privilege for me to express, on behalf of the Parliament of Australia, our appreciation to you for opening Australia's New Parliament House today.

We also thank you for the gracious words of your address on this historic occasion. On this, your twelfth visit to Australia, you are, as always, most welcome.

The opening of this building, the permanent home for the Commonwealth Parliament, is of great significance in the history of our nation. It is fitting, therefore, that you should share this day with the people of Australia.

Over the three decades since your first visit here in 1954 you will have observed many significant developments. Enormous changes have taken place over the time since the first Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia was opened in Melbourne on this day in 1901 and since the provisional Parliament House was opened, again on this day, in 1927. Two things, however, have not changed: The Australian people's strong commitment to parliamentary democracy and our confidence in the future.

It is characteristic of this nation that, no matter what the circumstances, Australia and her people are prepared to meet the future with confidence. For a people who enjoy the benefits of a democratic system of government, this magnificent building is a lasting symbol of our faith in the future. In the year 1932, in the depths of the world's greatest economic depression, in my home city of Sydney, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which is still one of the great engineering works of the world, was opened.

At that time a tourism publicity poster was issued depicting the bridge and bearing the defiant words: "Australia: still building". On this day in 1988, all Australian can say with great pride; we are indeed still building and doing so with a vision of the future.

The new Parliament House is a work of architectural and engineering distinction. In paying tribute to all those thousands of people associated with the design, construction and fitting out of the building, I would like to mention one of the features of the design which greatly enhances the symbolic nature of the building.

The new Parliament House sited on Capital Hill and facing the impressive vista of Canberra is the ultimate realisation of Walter Burley Griffin's concept of the key building in the Australian system of Government occupying this prime position in the Parliamentary triangle.

The siting of this building and its design confirm for everyone that Parliament House and the institution of Parliament are the very heart of the nation. Knowing of Your Majesty's deep interest and commitment to the Commonwealth of Nations it is significant that the first major event to occur in this

building after the Parliament commences sitting here in August will be the 34th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. This conference, to be held in September, will bring together some 350 delegates from 115 branches of the association in 48 nations of the Commonwealth. The holding of this conference in Australia, in this building, will reiterate Australia's belief in The Commonwealth and its future.

I am certain, your Majesty, that the fact that you have opened the building so recently will add a special meaning for all delegates who attend that conference.

In accepting the keys of the building from your Majesty, we, the elected representatives, dedicate it to the service of the people of Australia. I am conscious of the responsibility which this imposes on all members of Parliament. It is a trust that we will not betray. Once again, I express the appreciation of the Australian Parliament and people for your presence here today and for officially opening our new Parliament House.



President of the Senate, Senator Kerry Sibraa

Speaker praises House builders

Your Majesty, 88 years ago today, your grandfather, then Duke of Cornwall and York, opened the first Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia in Melbourne. Twenty-six years later your father, then Duke of York, inaugurated the first sittings of the Commonwealth Parliament in the Provisional Parliament House in Canberra. In doing so, he handed to one of my predecessors, Sir Littleton Groom, and the then President of the Senate, Senator Sir John Newlands, keys to the front door of that building.

It is particularly appropriate therefore, Your Majesty, that today you have officially opened the permanent home for the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia and, in doing so, you have passed to the President of the Senate and myself keys to the front doors of this magnificent new building.

I have accepted the keys acting on behalf of the Members of the House of Representatives and the Australian people whom we represent. In doing so, I am particularly conscious of the responsibility that it places on me and upon all of us who serve as Members of this Parlia-

ment.

As the current representatives of the Australian people we are but the temporary custodians of this building which, we pray, will endure for centuries. At a time when fundamental human rights and political freedoms are at risk in many other countries and democracies are under challenge, we have an enormous responsibility to ensure that in this, one of the truly great democracies of the world, the rights and freedoms of our people are safeguarded.

This building will help us to perform our duties. But it alone will not safeguard those most cherished possessions. As the representatives of the Australian people, we must remain forever vigilant in order that those hard-won freedoms for which so many Australians have sacrificed so much are preserved. We must ensure that the trust which the Australian people has placed in us is fully justified.

This occasion is the culmination of over two decades of inquiry, planning and construction. It represents years of hard work by many people.

What we see here today is the

manifestation of a brilliant design concept by an outstanding architect, Mr Romaldo Guirgola. We thank him and his architectural team for their extraordinary vision.

We also thank the Parliament House Construction Authority, the builders and all others who have toiled long and hard to plan and create this building. We acknowledge the efforts and contribution of former Presiding Officers and past and present members of the Joint Standing Committee on the New Parliament House for their dedication in ensuring that the needs of the Parliament have been met in this building.

It is a truly magnificent building. Basically simple in design, it is a beautiful building combining functionality with high quality durable finishes. It extensively uses natural Australian products blended into a richness seldom achieved in building construction.

It combines extensive areas freely available for public access with the functional needs of the Parliament and the Ministry. It is adorned with splendid works of art and craft created by Australian artists. It is a building of which all Australians can be very proud. It will stand for centuries and testimony to the skills of its designer and its builder.

Your Majesty, we are honoured by your presence with His Royal Highness on this historic occasion. We thank you for officially opening Australia's new Parliament House and for the address which you have been pleased to make to us. We take possession of our new and permanent Parliament House today with a feeling of great pride but at the same time with a sense of deep humility.



Speaker of the House, Mrs Joan Child

THE HOUSE MAGAZINE

-- the journal for Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, covers the business of the Parliament throughout the year.

For information, write to Box E404, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT, 2600.

Commencement Monument finds final site

Australia's new and permanent Parliament House has at least one tangible reminder of the founding of Canberra three-quarters of a century ago.

The Commencement Monument, formerly on Capital Hill, has been re-located on the land bridge in front of the entrance to the new building.

The 63 stones that make up the Monument were stored following their removal from the site in 1981. They have been re-erected much as they were when first laid on March 12, 1913, the day that Canberra was given its name by Lady Denman, wife of the then Governor-General. The circular monument has three commemorative stones, laid by

Lord Denman himself, the Prime Minister of the day, Andrew Fisher, and the Minister for Home Affairs, King O'Malley.

It was King O'Malley, a Canadian by birth, who actually performed the first ceremony to mark the construction of the new capital city. On February 20, 1913, some nine months after Walter Burley Griffin's prize-winning plan for the city had been accepted, King O'Malley drove the first survey peg into Capital Hill using the back of an axe.

Only a small audience of officials, their wives, and press photographers attended the ceremony.

Opposite page: King O'Malley lays the third stone of the Commencement Monument, March 12, 1913 (Picture courtesy National Library of Australia).

Page 56: The Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen, the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, and the official party at the ceremony to mark the relocation of the Commencement Monument, March 12, 1988 (Picture courtesy Parliament House Construction Authority).

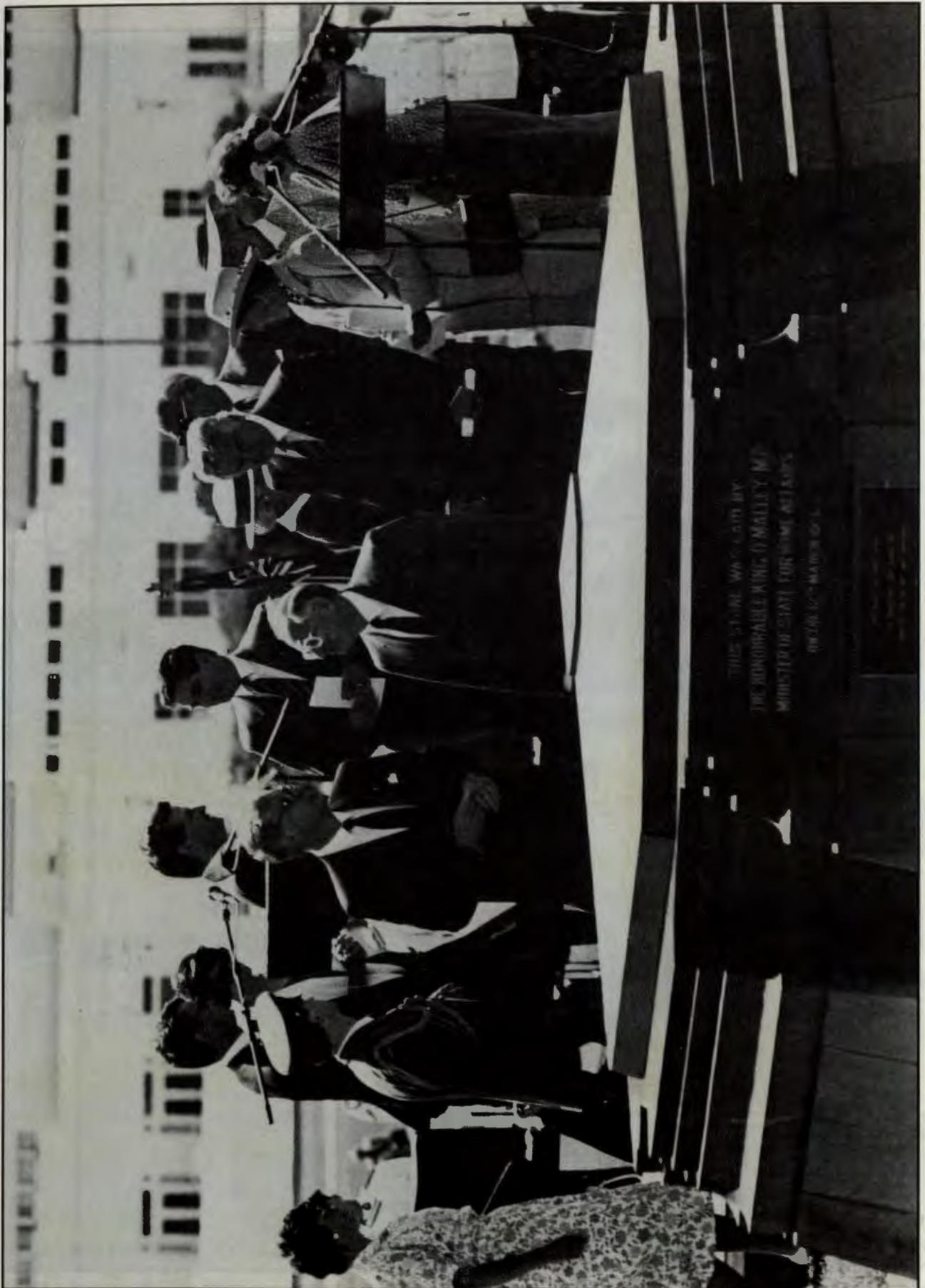
continued page 57



Standing for the National Anthem after Lady Denman had named the city of Canberra, March 12, 1913

(Picture courtesy National Library of Australia)





THIS STONE WAS LAID BY
THE HONORABLE KING O'MALLEY, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS
ON 24th MARCH 1951.

Commencement Monument

(continued from page 54)

Bush Ceremony

Much more impressive was the laying of the foundation stones for what was to have been a commencement column on Capital Hill on March 12.

Between 4,000 and 5,000 people, many of whom travelled in buggies and motor cars from distant towns and farms, watched the ceremony in "delightful weather". They were attended by 1,000 horsemen from the 3rd Light Horse Brigade drawn up in a hollow square around the site.

After the arrival of the official party, the Governor-General received the Royal Salute from a battery of field artillery and the bands played the National Anthem. The Guard of Honour was provided by cadets from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, established in the old Campbell homestead only two years earlier.

Using an Australian gold trowel with an ivory handle, Lord Denman laid the first of the three foundation stones. He was followed by Fisher and King O'Malley

who laid similar stones "amid", as it was described in a commemorative book, "public acclamation".

That Name - "Canberra"

According to the book, "a solemn and impressive phase of the proceedings had been reached" when Lady Denman was invited by the Prime Minister to name the city. The bands played the Old Hundredth ("All people that on earth do dwell"), there was a fanfare of trumpets as King O'Malley stepped forward and presented Lady Denman with a suitably inscribed gold card case containing the name of the city.

The commemorative book goes on: "The secret of the name had been most carefully guarded, and when Her Excellency, precisely at noon, stood ready to give it to the world, an expectant gathering waited "Lady Denman opened the card case, and in a clear voice exclaimed, 'I name the Capital of Australia, Canberra'. "Cheers

burst forth, guns boomed, while the bands played Advance Australia and God Save The King".

Originally, the platform of the monument was to have been the base of a 27-foot high column to signify the Commonwealth, but this was never built. However, a ceremony to mark the relocation of the stones was held at the new Parliament House on March 12 this year - exactly 75 years from the first occasion.

It was attended by the Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen, the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, and the Minister for the Arts and the Territories, Gary Punch.

Lady Stephen addressed the gathering as her predecessor, Lady Denman had done three-quarters of a century earlier when naming the new city.

In a statement at the time of the relocation ceremony, the Chief executive of the Parliament House Construction Authority, Gordon Peatey, said that Canberra's development over the years had fulfilled the hopes expressed by Prime Minister Andrew Fisher at the original ceremony. Fisher had said he hoped that the capital would become "a seat of learning as well as politics ... and also the home of art. The wrangle about the home of Government in Australia is over".



King O'Malley drives in Canberra's first survey peg, February 20, 1913.

(Picture courtesy National Library of Australia)



To celebrate Australia's Bicentenary in 1988
The National Trust and AMATIL Limited are presenting
a Gift to the Nation.

This community-based heritage program is amongst
the largest of its kind ever undertaken in Australia
and consists of thirteen individual projects.

Each project in the Gift to the Nation will
present a different aspect of our heritage.
Historic buildings of national significance will be restored
and important museum and educational facilities
will be developed to assist and encourage all Australians to
better understand and enjoy the architecture,
history and culture of our young nation.



*Old Government House, George Street, Brisbane
was constructed in 1860/62 as the residence for the first Governor
of Queensland. The exterior has been restored by
the Queensland Government and through The Gift
the interior will be returned to its former glory.*

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Marble and granite were supplied by Melocco, another Boral Group company.

Boral Masonry was the prime supplier of masonry for

the interior support walls. Boral Timber supplied internal finishing timbers, plasterboard came from Boral Australian Gypsum, and Boral Johns Perry is the name on the new Parliament House lifts.

To find out more about the Boral Group, write to Mr Doug Talty at Boral Limited, GPO Box 910, Sydney, NSW 2001. He'll send you a copy of "Our Credentials," a book which tells you how Boral not only helped to build our Houses of Parliament,

but is also building one of Australia's strongest companies.

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