

SOME POST-WAR MEMORIES OF LLOYD BOTT C.B.E. D.S.C.

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POST WAR MEMORIES

When I left the Navy in 1946 I returned to the Department of Supply (or Munitions, whatever it was called at the time) and continued my studies for the Degree of Bachelor of Commerce at the Melbourne University, which I had abandoned in 1939.

In this regard I think it's very interesting to compare the pre-war and post-war University. Pre-war there were substantially smaller numbers, more personal associations, plenty of room to move and lovely Wilson Hall. Afterwards there were thousands of students, all spare areas of land being covered with buildings, Wilson Hall destroyed by fire, etc.

It never had the same campus environment nor feeling. There was a pronounced change.

Back in Department of Supply one was reminded of the quality of the people there. Sir John Jensen, a man of great vision and quality; Cec. Gillan - a man who didn't get into a flap about things; Jim Bradburn, my mentor, a brilliant man with the common touch - possibly the best brain I ever came across, a lovely man. Subsequently Harold Breen became Permanent Head, in some respects a dour man and who some possibly thought was hard but he was a very fair man with a deep feeling for the interest of those who worked in the Department - a man of principle and real character for whom I had the deepest affection. When Supply and Defence Production (Munitions) joined together we had Frank O'Connor a much-loved, delightful man. He was followed as Permanent Head by John Knott from whom I learned a lot about the value of communicating with people.

The Department of Supply was a wonderful training ground. We operated the Government Munitions and Aircraft Factories employing thousands of people, the Defence Scientific Establishments and the Woomera Rocket Range, the Defence contracting organisation, the Government Stores and Transport Operations. And during my final years with Supply I directed the NASA (National Aeronautic and Space Administration of U.S.A.) projects in Australia. For a time the Australian Antarctic Division also became a responsibility of Department of Supply.

It was my home experience, my war experience and associations within Department of Supply that helped form my philosophies

of the dignity of man and the dignity of work.

I was very fortunate in Supply as I was selected as a potential top executive and sent to England to spend a year with the U.K. Ministry of Supply to broaden my education and experience. Gwen, I and Michael (then aged 3) left Australia on the Stratheden in December, 1948 and returned in February, 1950, on the Himalaya. (It is interesting that on the trip home I won the Deck Quoits with Jack Hotblack - a P. & O. Director and Gwen played Deck Tennis with Lord Inchcape, also a P. & O. Director.)

One of the interesting things I did in that year was to visit Germany to see how the Australian Reparations team was faring - as war reparations we were bringing selected items of plant to Australia. Actually, at one factory I visited, they were waiting for us to take out the old plant so they could instal brand new plant being supplied by the United States under Marshall Aid. So, apart from a 52 or 56-hour week, the Germans had new modern plant to assure their economic recovery and indeed, economic supremacy.

Altogether the year in the British Ministry of Supply was very rewarding with close association being made with top officials in policy areas and with the Permanent Secretary Sir Archibald Rowlands (particularly in relation to his appearance before the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee which we did not have in Australia at that time). I visited many Government and private factories.

Mention of Sir Archibald reminds me that I met him at a Garden party at Buckingham Palace. He had struggled to get into his morning suit (he'd put on weight since he had bought it) and he commented on how immaculate I had presented myself. As he had assumed, I hired my grey topper and morning suit from Moss Bros. who specialise in such hirings. At the Garden Party Gwen and I were also proud to shake the hand of Winston Churchill. It was a warm day and we had a lovely time. I recall that as we were leaving a young lady hurried over and spoke with us. It was Marie Millington-Drake who had been a boating wren at Dartmouth. It was a very pleasant surprise. Her father, Sir Eugene Millington-Drake was the British Ambassador in Uruguay at the time of the Battle of the River Plate during World War 2. I learned later from Marie's brother who visited Canberra from time to time that Marie had married an Italian Count and un-

fortunately she had died at an early age.

Gwen was fortunate to see England as it then was. Ofcourse, there was still rationing and queueing for food but there were good old English bus conductors and very few visitors. Gwen would look at the papers to see where the Royal family engagements were and, if she could make it, would be one of a very small number to see them. We had no trouble booking for the Ballet and could visit tourist areas comfortably. Gwen recalled this on a recent visit to Cockington, a tiny thatched village near Torquay. When Gwen had gone there in 1949 she was the sole visitor, and had in fact been invited into a cottage centuries old, but now we could barely move for hundreds of people and buses by the dozen. It is a changed world with all the people travelling.

After my return to Australia in February, 1950, I became more and more involved in the policy area. Among other things, I was Commonwealth Director on the Board of Nitrogen Fertilisers Pty. Ltd. which marketed sulphate of ammonia and urea. The other directors were from B.H.P., I.C.I. A.N.Z. and the Gas & Fuel Corporation. We each produced the fertiliser in our own plants, some such as B.H.P. getting the sulphate of ammonia as a by-product from its steel works. I initiated the sale to industry of our Sulphate of Ammonia plants and also our Ball Bearing Factory at Echuca.

Then, about the time of the Korean War, we built a new Explosives Filling Factory at St. Marys, an outer suburb of Sydney. This was the biggest new munitions establishment we have built since World War 2. I frequently chaired the monthly meetings between architects, building contractor and our technical and financial staff. As with most big building projects, this had many hassles but it was finally completed as a first-class establishment.

And of course I had an interest in the Woomera Rocket Range which was continually being developed and upgraded and expanded to meet new weapons requirements. It was all very stimulating.

Possibly the next big project in which I was deeply involved was the purchase of a Fighter Aircraft for the R.A.A.F. to replace the Sabre. I was part of the mission led by the then Chief of Air Staff, Sir Frederick Scherger, which

visited Europe and U.S.A. to recommend a replacement aircraft. We were away about 16 weeks I think. "Scherg" was a tremendous fellow to travel with. He was a marvellous man.

Our recommendation for the Mirage was finally accepted and I headed the very competent team responsible for all the contracting arrangements. This involved many weeks from time to time in France and we developed very close relationships with the Dassault Company which made the Mirage. Their officers were top quality people, very intelligent logical thinkers and I have a great respect for them. I believe that the Mirage project was the most successful and best negotiated major defence project ever undertaken by the Australian Government.

I am sure that my wartime associations with the French Resistance helped develop the trust so necessary in a big project like the Mirage. The Dassault officers helped me significantly in my visits to Brittany from time to time.

I also had many visits to France because of my Woomera connections. I used to attend ministerial meetings of the European Launcher Development Organisation (E.L.D.O.). We were arguing to them that the planned European satellites should be launched from Woomera but in the event E.L.D.O. elected for French Guyana. In retrospect, I'm satisfied they made the right decision as we would have been embarrassed trying to keep Woomera at the ready for all these years. In this respect it is to be noted that the Giotto probe which so successfully intercepted Comet Halley on 13th March, 1986 and observed at very close range the comet nucleus and transmitted the pictures back to earth, was launched from French Guyana on 2nd July, 1985.

One big pleasure arising from all the visits to France was that it enabled me to maintain some of the old wartime associations.

Another eventful part of my Supply life came with the advent and development of the U.S. space programme. In the 1960s we started off assisting N.A.S.A. with some of our radar-tracking facilities at Red Lake at Woomera. This developed into building of tracking stations for N.A.S.A. at Muchea (near Perth) for Mercury then a bigger station at Carnarvon W.A. for Gemini and three very big stations in the Australian Capital Territory at Tidbinbilla, Orroral Valley, and Honeysuckle Creek for Deep Space, communication and other scientific satellites,

and for manned flight to the moon. This was an exciting period and I was fortunate to be the chief co-ordinator - managing director if you like - of all N.A.S.A. activities in Australia.

I had frequent visits to N.A.S.A. facilities on mainland U.S.A. and also I visited Kowhai in Hawaii and at Bermuda. I'm sure the Americans expected that responsible people connected with their programme would not treat it as just another technical job but to be deeply involved personally. As the programme was the biggest thing happening in the world at the time this was certainly how I felt about it as also did the Station Managers and their staff.

In the series of Gemini flights one of the important projects was the rendezvous of 2 spacecraft in space. This had to be accomplished before we could land on the lunar surface in the Apollo programme then take off and link up again with the Command Module which would be orbiting around the moon.

On December 15th and 16th, 1965, Wally Schirra with Tom Stafford in Gemini VI achieved the rendezvous with Frank Borman and Jim Lovell in Gemini VII. I had met Wally many times before but after the rendezvous flight, Wally and Frank and their wives came to Australia on a goodwill mission and to thank our tracking stations for the support they had given the flights. I accompanied them around Australia and I recall really well the cavalcade through Melbourne which Gwen and I were in and we took them to Government House to meet Sir Edmund Herring, the acting Governor and to Harold Holt's house to meet the Prime Minister and to Parliament House to see the Premier Sir Henry Bolte. I recall also an enormous crowd at a large Grace Bros. complex in Sydney.

Apollo 8 holds a particular significance for me. This was the first time man had circled the moon - and I have a copy of the famous picture of the earth taken from over the moon and it's signed by the three Astronauts Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders.

During that Apollo 8 flight the first prayer came from space and Frank Borman, a fine Christian gentleman, who said the prayer, included it on his Christmas card which I received from him the following year. The prayer from Space, Apollo VIII, Christmas Eve, 1968 reads as follows:-

"Give us, O God, the vision which can
see Thy love in the world in spite of
human failure. Give us the faith to trust

the goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness. Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts, and show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace. Amen."

During the Apollo VIII flight^{my son} Stephen was working at Tidbinbilla^{TRACKING STATION} so he also had some small part in the historic mission.

I was fortunate to meet many astronauts on my visits to the United States. Additional to Wally Schirra, Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders, there were Deke Slayton, Al Shepard, Tom Stafford, Walt Cunningham and Philip Chapman, the only Australian in the astronaut team. In Australia, I also met Al Shepard, David Scott and Pete Conrads. Gwen had the pleasure on one occasion of driving David out to the Melbourne Airport. They were generally speaking, fine representatives of the United States.

It was a great experience to be part of it all and I thoroughly enjoyed it and their trust and faith in me. I suppose the highlight of it all was to be present at the launch of Apollo XI on July 16th, 1969, as a guest of N.A.S.A. and the Vice-President of the United States. I have a very nice certificate to that effect signed by Vice President Agnew.

It was a tremendous occasion witnessed by some hundreds of thousands of people at Cape Kennedy as it then was. (It seems now it has reverted to its old name Cape Canaveral.) The atmosphere was electric, full of drama, excitement and expectation as we waited for the rocket motors to ignite to launch man on his mission to set foot on the moon for the first time. It was a great thrill to be there to see the vehicle on its way.

After the launch we were flown by V.I.P. aircraft to Houston, Texas where is located the Command Center for manned Spaceflights. I was present in the Mission Control Center when Apollo XI, after orbiting the earth to check out its systems, was given the all-clear to proceed to the moon. Whilst at the center, I had a chat with my old friend Christopher Kraft who was the Director of Operations then at the Manned Space Center

and the man in charge of the mission from the ground. It was an experience to be there where the center of action was.

The Minister and I then departed for home. After spending a night at Honolulu we proceeded to Australia and I was out at Honeysuckle Creek station in the A.C.T. to see the landing on the moon. Actually it had been programmed that Honeysuckle Creek would be the back-up station but in the event there were some difficulties in communication from the U.S. station and Honeysuckle Creek, in fact, was the prime station for that vital part of the mission. So I had the tremendous, unique experience of seeing the lift-off, of being at Houston when the command to proceed to the moon was given and being at our Australian station to see the landing on the moon which must rank as one of the greatest feats ever performed by man. The large C.S.I.R.O. 210 foot radio telescope at Parkes in N.S.W. played an important part in this mission. Actually Parkes had made a tremendous amount of technical data and knowledge available to N.A.S.A. to assist them in the development of their large dishes.

That was really the end of my days with Dept. of Supply as 3 weeks later, in August, 1969, I was appointed Secretary of the Department of National Development.

This was another tremendous experience. National Development had responsibility for minerals, energy, water resources, forestry and northern development. Under my control I also had the Bureau of Mineral Resources and the Division of National Mapping and I became a Commissioner of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission, Chairman of the Snowy Mountains Council and Deputy to the President of the River Murray Commission. I also chaired regular meetings of the Commonwealth and State officials responsible for these functions in their respective States. The interchange of views was very rewarding and worthwhile. Possibly the biggest thing arising from such meetings was for the States to open their minds to each other, one to learn from another.

At that stage (1969 - 72) minerals development was the biggest thing happening in Australia and it was an exciting time to be involved in those developments. When Sir Reginald Swartz became my Minister after the 1969 elections we used to take a V.I.P. aircraft and visit mineral developments all round Australia twice a year - once in winter when everyone wanted

to travel north and once in summer when we were very welcome as there weren't many visitors in the north in the hot, wet season. It was a great experience to see the huge equipment used in the open-cut mining, to visit the oil rig in Bass Strait and the Exploration vessel on the North-West Shelf and so many other major projects. Actually I met Stephen at the Bauxite mine at Gove in the Northern Territory and he was at the Mt. Newman Iron Ore mine in W.A. on another occasion when he was working in University vacations.

We also used to go regularly to Japan to talk with Japanese Government and industry. Among the people we met were Mr. Tanaka and Mr. Fukuda who each subsequently became Prime Minister of Japan and we also met with the heads of Nippon Steel, Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Sumitomo, Marebini and Tokyo Gas amongst many others.

Also when the first Japanese Economic Mission came to Australia headed by Mr. Tajitsu, Chairman of the Mitsubishi Bank (he was the big boss in Mitsubishi), I led the Australian officials in the discussions and became very close to Mr. Tajitsu. Mrs. Tajitsu, and the wives of the next three senior members of the mission dined with Gwen at our home in Canberra, as also did Mrs. Saito, the Ambassador's wife who I think was a relative of Mr. Tajitsu and was in fact a close friend of ours.

I also met in Australia and accompanied in a V.I.P. aircraft to an iron ore project at Savage River in N.W. Tasmania, Mr. Miyazawa who is one of the three people from whom the next Japanese Prime Minister is expected to be chosen in the next few months probably in October, 1986. He is an outstanding man whose English is perfect. *(Mr Miyazawa became Prime Minister of Japan in November, 1991).*

Another very interesting trip I had in National Development was to enable me to become conversant with what was involved in the development of natural gas as our gas on the North-West Shelf was being discovered at that time. The visit was only possible because I had a close friendship with the French Ambassador in Canberra and he had friends in Algeria who laid everything on for me.

I went to Algeria and was taken out to the source of the gas in the Sahara Desert, followed the pipelines to the coast where it was liquified and put in a tanker, went to France

to see the plant where it was de-liquified and fed into the pipeline for consumption. I also visited St. Nazaire to see an L.N.G. tanker being constructed. This was a most interesting experience as was a call I made on a gentleman in Paris - he was an Italian nuclear physicist actually - who does the mathematics for the operation of natural gas systems. With L.N.G. there has to be a complete system from well to consumer pipelines. There can be no holding up ships at the wharf or anything like that.

The Minister and I also met with our Canadian counterparts regularly to exchange views on mineral developments.

Among some important issues which come to mind from my National Development days are:-

- . the argument between the Commonwealth and States as to which Government owns the waters offshore.

- . then there were the arrangements between world uranium producers and the claim by Westinghouse against "the secret cartel" as they called it. It is interesting that on 31st August, 1976 the Melbourne Herald carried a major heading on its front page:

SECRET NUCLEAR CLUB NAMED

followed by a report datelined from Washington which commenced:

"A top Australian Government Official chaired a meeting which took Australia into a secret international uranium pricefixing cartel, according to documents released here.

The documents named the Official as Mr. L. F. BOTT who was Secretary of the Department of National Development at the time."

Actually after the meeting referred to, on February 28th, 1972, we issued a press statement and the matter was also referred to in the Natural Resources Report tabled by the Minister in Parliament in September, 1972. So really there was no great secrecy about it.

- . Also the nuclear power plant proposed to be built at Jervis Bay was stopped in my time.

(a decision which I supported as I could not see the economics of it nor could I see the need in Australia to take risks as one could not be satisfied as to the safety aspects of nuclear plants.

Furthermore we have very large reserves of coal to serve as our source of power generation.)

. Another thing I remember were the talks undertaken with Indonesia ^{in 1971/2} about oil rights in the Timor Sea. (I note now 15 years later that it is hoped talks will proceed again shortly.)

*Now the
subject of a
legal battle
Australia v.
Portugal.
Feb 1995.*

. I should also recall a document tabled in the Parliament in September, 1972 by the Minister on "Australia's Natural Resources". It was a very important document. It attempted to show the Government's views on the subject and where we should be going in natural resources by the year 2,000. (This document was regarded by some Labour members as the best document produced in all the years of the Liberal Government. It, however, wasn't welcomed by some other Departments.)

I was moved from the Department of National Development when the Whitlam Labour Government won power in December, 1972. About six months after my removal an interesting article appeared in the Melbourne Age (2nd June, 1973) which raised doubts about the activities of the new Minister for Minerals and Energy, Mr. Connor. The article was headed: "Fantasy, not fact, backs Labour pipedream." The article was related to Connor's demand that a pipeline should be erected across Australia to bring Gas from the North-West Shelf in W.A. to South Eastern Australia. I think it is a lovely dream but economically not feasible. Certainly it wasn't when I looked at it in the Department. I was mentioned in the article a couple of times and at the finish it was stated: I will close with a final note from the exiled Mr. Bott -

"An effective natural resources policy must

be the result of the combined experience and the common needs of the Commonwealth and State Governments as well as those of private industry. None of them can go it alone."

Note: This quote must have come from a speech I gave when I was Secretary of National Development.

The article finished with "BRING BACK BOTT" (in capital letters.)

I guess this boosted my pride somewhat, but it was a sad indictment of the changed approach to minerals development that, in my opinion, slowed the industry to a crawl. Connor thought he knew it all and that everyone else was stupid. All the work of my Minister and my Department with the States and Industry over the preceding three years was nullified.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. As I said earlier, in December, 1972 Mr. Whitlam's Labour Government won the General Election and the Department of National Development ceased to exist - it was split into about 3 departments.

- . A new Department of Minerals and Energy
- . A new Department of Northern Development
- . Water Resources went to another Department
- . Forestry to another, etc.

So I was without an appointment.

In the event I was offered the Department of Tourism and Recreation which I accepted. Perhaps there is a little history which may have influenced my receiving an appointment at all.

Let's go back to March, 1972. When I read the proposals by the Labour Party for the dismembering of National Development, I called on Gough Whitlam about 11 p.m. one night in Parliament House. I told him I didn't come with political motives and he acknowledged I was there as "a true professional". (his words) I told him I believed their published plans had significant deficiencies. To some extent, I think he agreed with me, but he indicated that the changes proposed would be made. (In passing it is interesting to note that the Department of

Northern Development didn't last very long as a separate Department.) Furthermore when Labour won the election I sent a letter to Mr. Whitlam formally setting out my views.

In the first couple of weeks after the election, Mr. Whitlam and his deputy Mr. Barnard and the two Labour leaders in the Senate - Senator Murphy and Senator Willesee were deciding the administrative arrangements as to how the functions of Government would be split between departments. One day I met Don Willesee in the corridor at Parliament House and he commented on the letter I had written and said that when anything came up Prime Minister Whitlam would ask "What does Lloyd Bott think of this?" I don't of course take the comment too seriously but it was at least an indication that my letter had made some impression. It is interesting that, on the day my appointment to Tourism and Recreation was announced, I met Gough Whitlam in Queens Hall of Parliament House. He said he was very pleased that I had accepted. I don't recall his exact words but he went on to indicate that it was sad that one who had been honest and helpful should be treated as I had been.

Now to the Department of Tourism and Recreation. Its responsibilities involved Tourism, Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs. It was rather shattering after the jobs I'd previously held but, in the event, I did get a lot of satisfaction and pleasure from it. It was a new department which I had to build. It remained small but was quite an interesting one and we achieved quite a lot. We gave a lot of encouragement to new sporting facilities and to coaching. I enjoyed my relationships with many top sporting personalities and with many of the sporting associations. The Australian Institute of Sport was born from one of our recommendations.

The Government put money into Old Sydney Town, the heritage town near Gosford, north of Sydney and I became Commonwealth director on the board. I spent a lot of effort trying to get an effective control system in the place. The Commonwealth subsequently transferred its interest to the N.S.W. Government.

I recall one other very interesting matter. Apparently Premier Charles Court of W.A. had asked P.M. Whitlam if the Commonwealth could help W.A. with the Perth Entertainment Centre. The Prime Minister asked me to look at it. I went over to Perth and early the following morning (Saturday) I had a telephone

call at my hotel. It was Charles Court on the line, welcoming me to Western Australia and letting me know that I could ring him at home if at any time I wanted any help.

I knew him well from my National Development days. I would think there would be very few, if any, senior public servants from Canberra who would receive a welcome from a State Premier particularly in the Whitlam period.

In the event, I suggested the Commonwealth contribute 1 to 1.5 million dollars which was agreed. The center will not be an economically attractive project but is a magnificent entertainment center which because of its capacity and versatility encourages to Australia many shows which would not otherwise come. Also it could even stage an Indoor Davis Cup tie and seat a few thousand spectators.

On the youth side, there were also many satisfying experiences. I formed a particularly strong regard for the Y.W.C.A. They seemed to achieve wonderful results in community projects with very little assistance.

I also organised with the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, a highly successful Youth Conference which Sir John chaired at Government House. I also recall another visit to Government House to discuss the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme with the Duke and the then Governor-General Sir Paul Hasluck.

By and large it was an interesting and enlightening experience for me.

When the Liberal Government was re-elected in December, 1975, I was appointed as Secretary, Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. The old Immigration Department had gone out of being during the Labour Administration and I had the difficult task of re-grouping and organising the Department to advise on Australia's immigration, population and ethnic affairs objectives and policies.

Immigration was a very difficult and challenging Department and there was very strong political pressure from some ethnic groups. I believe that Governments of either persuasion take too much notice of ethnic activists at the expense of the average Australian. There is no doubt that the vote of the new Australian is crucial in many electorates. I am appalled at the way a few migrant groups think more in terms of the country

they came from than what's in Australia's best interest. Immigration was a 24 hour a day job, 7 days a week. There was always a problem somewhere in the world. I recall a Christmas Day spent almost wholly on the telephone.

I think over the years we've made some big mistakes in our Immigration policies. We've brought in large numbers of permanent migrants from a different way of life, with no knowledge of English and it's been beyond the capacity of the community to absorb them in an adequate manner - the legal system couldn't cope, nor could the health system, nor the education system. It wasn't fair to the community nor to would-be migrants to continue in that vein. In my time we re-framed the rules for selecting migrants to give some precedence to those with a knowledge of English.

Another important initiative which I suggested was the permanent entry of people with adequate capital to support themselves. According to a report in Melbourne "Age" 23.3.1987 this was proved to be a very worthwhile initiative.

I believe the economic value of migration is still to be demonstrated or proven. One can see around some tremendous achievers among our migrants but the value of unskilled migrants still has a question mark as far as I'm concerned. Furthermore, looking at it with hindsight, one can see that in the periods of high migration we should have been introducing higher technology into our factories rather than migrant labour. This is a fundamental cause of our current economic position and the deterioration in our manufacturing capacity through its inability to compete internationally.

I can recall many interesting things that happened in Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. It's a very emotional area. On one occasion we had a police guard at our house for several days because of threats I received.

We were given the responsibility for Population Studies and we tried to relate our immigration policies to population trends. We produced a green paper on the subject. We also published information on Australia's population structure and distribution so that those, for example, with education responsibilities could see the need for more or less schools, or those with concern for the aged could be aware of the ageing population, etc.. I believe there have been dreadful deficiencies in our capital planning. This is what I was

hoping to remedy.

We initiated the development of a special broadcasting authority primarily concerned with ethnic broadcasting i.e. the S.B.S. TV. It is interesting that the A.B.C. was not at all interested when we were trying to establish the service.

I believe we in Immigration never received adequate understanding nor the organisation for the task we undertook overseas. Our people were the only ones who had to work day-by-day among citizens of the country where they were posted. They were determining who should be allowed as permanent residents of Australia and I believe there cannot be a greater responsibility. In comparison I regard what Foreign Affairs and Trade do is generally of far less importance and certainly far less difficult.

In recent times ⁽¹⁹⁸⁶⁾ there has been reference to the Woodward Royal Commission on Drugs report. It was mentioned that Grassby as Minister for Immigration had authorised the entry into Australia of a drug dealer, Barbara or Barbarosa, or some name like that, against the advice of his Department. This was well before my time but it certainly wasn't forgotten by officers in the Department. This is an indication of the sort of decisions that have to be made on Temporary Entry to Australia and the integrity required of officers of the Department.

Life was difficult enough, but now additionally one has appeals to Ombudsmen and Administrative Appeals Committee and we're also landed with Freedom of Information. I don't believe the benefits outweigh the enormous costs.

Illegal immigrants were always a problem. I'm one who strongly supports the use of Identity Cards to prevent illegal immigrants holding down jobs, and you can be assured they would run into thousands. They arrive on tourist visas for short-term visits and don't leave within their approved time. I suppose there are 2 million arrivals every year and when some, relatively few, disappear into the community they're hard to find. Before an entry visa is issued we make some quick checks but it is just impossible to do comprehensive checking. As a postscript I have read that the Government in the new legislation does not intend to insist that identity cards will have to be produced for any purpose. This sounds ridiculous to me - in my view an identity card must of course be produced in

seeking employment, and when Government benefits are involved, etc. (NOTE: THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WAS NOT PROCEEDED WITH)

The refugees from Vietnam and Lebanon, in particular, were matters of much concern in my time. Special organisations had to be established to handle "the boat people" from S.E. Asia and in Cyprus and Syria to handle Lebanese refugees. I must say I feel we brought in many long-term problems with our refugee intake. In regard to refugees, I think we should restrict to our own area - certainly not take them from all around the world.

Talking of refugees, reminds me of a visit the Minister and I had in 1976. We went to Geneva to talk with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who at the time was the Ali Khan. We had lunch with him and his wife at their home on the shore of Lake Geneva. They were lovely people.

On the same visit we had an audience with Pope Paul VI. I had been in St. Peter's Square many times previously but to be driven past the Swiss Guards at the entrance to the Vatican and up to the Pope's official quarters was an experience indeed. The Pope's English was excellent and he was a very warm man although his background was very different from Pope John or Pope John Paul. He was naturally interested in our immigration programme and what we were doing about refugees. This visit was undoubtedly one of the highlights of my life.

We also visited Northern Italy which had shortly before suffered the awful earthquakes. The Minister was there to express the Government's concern and to advise the Australian Government on what help Australia could offer. Even now as I think of it ten years later I can still see it all. It was a never-to-be-forgotten, very saddening experience.

On our visit to Northern Italy we stayed at Venice overnight and it so happened that, on that day, the award of my C.B.E. (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) was announced so we celebrated the event at dinner on the balcony of our hotel overlooking the water.

I had my C.B.E. conferred at Government House in Canberra by the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, a few months later and Gwen and Susan were present. It was a happy occasion and we enjoyed the afternoon tea in the grounds on a lovely day with the Army Band playing beautiful music.

I retired from the Public Service in 1977. On my retirement, the Minister was kind enough to say:-

"There have been major developments for all Australians and especially for people who have come from overseas to make their homes here. Mr Bott's leadership, administrative ability and humanity have been of great assistance during this time of activity. Mr Bott had been regarded by those who served with him both within Australia and overseas as a man who earned respect and affection."

I received many very nice letters and one which John Reid, Chairman of James Hardie Ltd and a Director of B.H.P. wrote, I found particularly warming. Here is a short extract:-

"You leave behind you a great reputation as a fine administrator and a great bloke among those who worked for you, which is as nice a tribute as anyone could ask for, and it is merited, not attributed."

Finally, I would like to record that wherever I went in many Departments, the integrity and ethics of the Service were never in doubt, the quality of the staff was excellent - highly qualified, intelligent, good, hardworking, loyal people. I think many of the problems in the Public Service today stem from lack of trust, inadequate leadership and delegation and too much political appointment. There seems to be a willingness not to accept responsibility but to seek consensus in a committee. Also I would like to pay a tribute to most of the Ministers I served with. They were fine dedicated people and it was a great pleasure to work so closely with them.

I joined the Board of Directors of Siddons Industries Ltd on my retirement and remained on the Board for ten years.

In the period since 1986 I have received much enjoyment from writing my memoirs of the war and post-war periods. In particular, my wartime memories of "The Royal Navy's 15th M.G.B. Flotilla" have been acclaimed by those involved as a valuable record of the hazardous clandestine operations carried out by the flotilla with such conspicuous success. A copy of the manuscript has been accepted by the Imperial War Museum in London and a copy is also held in the Australian War Museum in Canberra.

My wife and I have had a most rewarding time tracing our family histories in the U.K. 200 years back and in my wife's case we were able to establish relationships with present-day members of both her mother's and father's families, in fact living in the original villages. There has been a wonderful reunion of the families. In my case we were not able to locate any living family members although we had great joy in exploring the villages from which they came.

In conclusion I must pay tribute to my family. My father came from a line of Primitive Methodists and he had been a worthy local preacher. He was a wonderful man. His grandparents had come to Adelaide and his father was born there in the 1840's - a few years after Adelaide was established. Actually the four sons of Thomas and Mary Bott of Brigstock in Northamptonshire, England all came with their families to Adelaide during the first 20 years of the colony's life. What initiative and courage they had - one cannot envisage the hardships they had to face and overcome. I also think of the feelings of Thomas and Mary and their daughters who stayed behind in England. My mother came from a resourceful, enterprising, hardworking family with a strong family bond. I feel very humble when I think of my mother's grandmother. Born Ann Stalker in Dundee, Scotland on 20th April, 1831, she arrived in Australia in 1849, married Alexander Ross in Geelong in 1851 when she was 20 years old, widowed just 6 years later with 3 young daughters. She was 28 years old when she married my great grandfather John Gatenby in Geelong on 30th January, 1860. What hardships she must have endured, what courage and determination she had. This spirit was passed down through the family.

I was born with a lot of commonsense and my general upbringing and hard work have been responsible for any success, if it can be so claimed, in my life.

And, of course, I was blessed with a wife who has been a wonderful helper and advisor and mother of my 3 children who had to bear with my very frequent and long absences from home. I thank them and love them all and it is for them and their families that I have recorded these random thoughts.

God bless them all.

SOME TRIBUTES

1967:

Christopher Kraft

Director, Manned Space Center,
Houston, Texas

1969:

Harry Dolphin

Department of Supply

Air Marshal
Sir Frederick Scherger

Chairman, Australian National Air-
lines Commission, formerly Chief of
Air Staff and Chief of Defence Forces
in Australia

Admiral Sir Victor Smith

Chief of Naval Staff and later Chief
of Defence Forces in Australia

Gerald Truszynski

NASA Headquarters, Washington D.C.

Jack Mengel

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Ken Anderson

Leader of the Government in the
Senate and Minister for Supply

1973:

Keith Holtsbaum

Department of National Development

Shizuo Saito

Ambassador of Japan

1977:

The Hon. Michael
Mackellar M.P.

Ministerial News Release

Mike Migus

Department of Immigration and Ethnic
Affairs, Deputy Consul General
(Migration) New York

David R. Cox

Director, Australian Branch
International Social Service

Sir Ian McLennan

Chairman B.H.P. Co. Ltd

Mrs Robin MacKellar

Wife of Michael MacKellar, Minister
for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs

1978:

Lady Henty

Widow of Sir Denham Henty, Leader of
the Government in the Senate and
Minister for Supply