The editors of OZ wish to express their deep sympathy to the family of the Prime Minister in their sad bereavement. We regret that this issue was already printed before the tragic events of Sunday, 17th December.
Hubble-bubble Smoker of 1967: (among other awards) to H. Holt for his statement in June that the Arab-Israel trouble was "all huffing and puffing" and would never lead to war (also in June).

OZ Humane Society Medal: to Sir Frank Packer for Sydney "Telegraph" editorials
- suggesting control of Negro riots by shooting a hundred darkies,
- approving the Ryan hanging (alone amongst Australian newspapers),
- advising Vote No in the referendum on Aborigines,
- urging impeachment of Mr. Justice McClemens after the Cuthbert Case.

Freedom of the Press-Gang: again to Sir Frank for his work during the Sydney journalists' strike, for helping new talent (i.e., Donald Horne), by losing artist Les Tanner and editor Peter Coleman after an issue of the "Bulletin" which so displeased him that it was pulped, and more recently for wringing an abject apology out of "Nation" following nasty insinuations over share-deals involving his bete noire Rupert Murdoch.

Machiavelli Memorial: to Alan Fitzgerald for his masterly "Don't Vote For Me" campaign which won him a seat on the A.C.T. Advisory Council as its first True Whig member — and its only candidate ever to run backwards for office.

Most Firmly Lost Cause: New State Movement in N.S.W., died 29th April, 1967, of an acute referendum.

Folk-Runs-Amok Section: Marijuana Faithless, for services to the Persian Rug industry and her suggestion that sexual intercourse should now be portrayed in films. The Italian film seducer, Frederico Fellatio, is currently working on this latter suggestion and is soon to release the fruit of his endeavours under the old title, "Keystone Cops".

Bundle for Britain Award: Judy Lockrey, Australian entrant in Miss World who abandoned British nationality and was naturalised only weeks before leaving for the judging in London (from whence she does not seem to have returned).

Uplifts of the Year:
- Cross My Heart bras
- Harold's Devaluation Speech—"good electoral material but economic bilge": SMH.
- Ed Clark: "Ich bin ein Australian"

Drop-Out of the Year: Dr. Timothy Leary, who has stepped down as head archangel of the League of Spiritual Development and married his former aide.

Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Prize for Liberal Principles That Know When Not To Go Too Far: the Duke of Edinburgh, for continuing to project an "enlightened" image but keeping remarkably silent about his Greek relative, King Constantine the Flexible.

Hostess with the Leastest: Mrs. Ignace Listwan who brought out the peahen of the Peacock Throne, Princess Soraya. After staging a tantrum over a cholera injection, flouncing out of charity events and refusing to go anywhere near the Melbourne Cup, the princess also won our nomination for Persian Least Likely to Succeed.

World's Biggest Lie: that the Vietcong are all communists and under the direct manipulation of Hanoi (in December, even at last denied by the "Sunday Telegraph"). And Most Hopeful Prediction: an end to Vietnam and hence the discrediting and defeat of the Holt Government.

"The Loved One" of the Year: to Jayne Mansfield who lost her head in the most tasteless death of the year and then had every old flame descend upon her assets in unseemly haste. Also to William Manchester who is surely beginning "Death of a Sex Queen" to cash in on yet another American myth.

Robin Hood Prize: to Eric Willis N.S.W. Chief Secretary (glasses) as unmerriest man and for helping people doing it.
Closed Chapters Prize:
• "Twenty Unread Letters to a Friend" by the svelte Svetlana.
• "Afternoon Light" — an evening of boredom by a master of turgidity.

Worst New Ideas:
"The Naked Ape"
psychedelicatessens macro-skirts
Sadie the Cleaning Lady
the Anti-Anti Football League
three new DLP senators
transcendentalising hippies
Mohammed Ali Webster
CIA subsidies

"Good Ship Lollipopp Award: to the most short-lived political career in history. Shared by Shirley Temple (now Black) and Col. Nyugen Ky (still faintly yellow).

Banner Headline of the Year:
"Star's Nude Dance" (Sunday Mirror, Dec. 10). This referred to a single buried paragraph in an inside story on Vanessa Redgrave ("She handed out her latest shock to a theatre audience this week when she danced baretop before a theatre audience in London") in a much longer article on something else. This single, obscure paragraph, on which apparently the whole issue was to be sold, was not only ill-written and stale (the "Sun" had carried the story four days earlier) but untrue (the "theatre audience" were some actors and the episode was, in fact, a scene from a forthcoming film).

Family Planner of the Year: Stanley Korman for his remarkable ability to syphon money out of his public companies to save his family companies from the financial ruin he brought to others.

Transcendental Giggle: Makarishi Makecash Yogi Bear.
1. Up to thirty can play and the players are pre-selected by their friends every six years.
2. Each player deposits $250 which is colourfully “forfeited” if he doesn’t complete the course.
3. Draw straws to decide your “party.”
   - First man of straw is “Liberal-Country Party” (LCP).
   - “DLP” is the last straw.
   - The one who gets it from both sides is called “ALP”.
4. Select gaily patterned buttons to mark your progress.
   - “LCP” — Fawn.
   - “DLP” — black with a white collar.
   - “ALP” — a whiter shade of pink.
5. Each “party” throws the dice (or “slings the mud” as old players say) and has equal time (except, picturesquely, for “DLP” who has a whole hour on Sundays but nothing during the week). Like real politics, progress is entirely a matter of chance although skilful cheating is useful.

Challenged to debate Vietnam by Ken Thomas
ALL except ALP add 10% of last throw.
You are abused by Andrew Jones in public.
ALL 6 free throws.
**ESD of ABC**

When it comes to politics the ABC has two major problems which it has never been able to solve. These are censorship and finance.

Both Liberal and ALP ministers have had the idea that they should be able to influence what is ostensibly an independent statutory Commission in its choice of Viewpoints and programs. In recent times a number of ABC's individuals have lent heavily on the ABC because of Four Corners.

More recently still, the Postmaster-General Mr. Hulme told ABC personnel that "they" comedy had arrived at the highest standards in their TV programs. Presumably he thought of Contrabandits, Bellbird, sexy ole Australian Playhouse and the buffalo shooting segment in Four Corners. The DLP 21% in on this although its main gripe is that it is not treated as the third major party when it comes to appointment of free time for electoral spiers.

When Four Corners was under fire several years ago, the ABC jumped when the whips cracked. But the day after Mr. Hulme's ludicrous speech, with every columnist predicting tamer programs, a memo went out to ABC-TV production staff. From Neil Hutchinson, Federal Controller of Programs, the memo denied newspaper reports that ABC Chairman Sir Robert Mudgwick had been "summoned" to appear before Mr. Hulme to hear more on this case for being too efficient in their ferreting.

The Ng case may still prove interesting. Some of the personalities involved are associated with the ex-policemen convicted on drug charges in the U.S. At least two police officers have recently been transferred off this case for being too efficient in their ferreting.

**SWEET COPS**

N.S.W. State Labour really looked as though they were playing for real when they raised the Warringah allegations in parliament. They had previously set up a three-man committee of investigation, on whose terms of reference for material. They were held back in their attack only in the knowledge, furnished by the same committee, that two of their own men were also involved.

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**PROF-CONG?**

The appeal by a number of Sydney professors for Civil Aid for South Vietnam has received widespread publicity. Intentionally or unintentionally, it has taken some of the publicity away from the Vietnam protesting academics. Of course, if the appeal fails to reach its target of $30,000—to be raised entirely from university staff—it will prove a worthwhile stick with which to beat the universities for their lack of sympathy for the South Vietnamese.

The letter launching the appeal has not gone out to all academics. Presumably postage will be saved by not bothering about the better known protesters, who would be unlikely—whatever their feelings about Civil Aid—to subscribe to an appeal whose trustees are so heavily committed to military action. The letter refers warmly to the generosity of three anonymous academics who have promised the Appeal half their recent pay increase. But then one of the trustees has the very strong conviction that this particular increase was a scandal (this academic has no children and a wife with income).

But the most interesting point about the begging letter is its statement that donations are tax-deductible. If it were true, this would be the first foreign aid charity to obtain such a concession from the Treasury. It is a concession that better known and longer established organisations, like Freedom from Hunger, Inter-Church Aid, Save the Children Fund and the United Nations Appeal for Children, have failed to obtain in the past. The Treasury has always argued that these charities are a drain on currency and not to be encouraged, which has been at loggerheads with E.A.'s claim that they are aiming to increase our civil aid to the proverbial 1%. Apparently if private individuals are prepared to boost the national effort in this area they are not to be assisted.

Suddenly after many years of agitation over this particular tax concession, a small newly-formed group is to receive immediate recognition. Or is it? Taxation has now had second thoughts and the final decision, if it is in favour of the Appeal, will be against the recommendation of the Tax Commissioner. The Government must be very grateful to these hard-working academics.

**NATION REVEALED**

Recently a newspaper the Commonwealth Film Censorship Board had appointed Deputy Film Censor to see those films that the official censors couldn't quite manage. There have been persistent rumours that anyone around from typing- or office boy—had opted, given a list of "objectionable subjects" and shuttled in to a movie. If the proxy censor sounded the alarm his aesthetic judgment would be checked by one of the Board.

Appointing Deputies eliminated this sort of activity although the Censor still had complete discretion as to whom he appointed. This means that he could select any Tom, Dick or Harry to enforce his own ideas of taste and indecency on the filmmakers.

One particular Dick was none other than Ray Septimus Maher, ex-Speaker of the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly. A Miss Shepherd alleged in 1965 that he had proposed an indecent feature and then flushed some obscene footage at her. A court found the charges unfounded but Ray's political career was ended. He died this year.

But Ray was made a Deputy after he left the Chair and if you think that obsenity was a strange field for him then you just don't know much about Public Service appointments in the higher echelons.

Phizzgigs are Australian informers, as distinct from American stoolpigeons, English narks and Scandinavian Quislings.

OZ, January 5
SAVE FAUNA AND FLORA FROM THE FARMER, PLEADS

CSIRO EXPERT

NOVEMBER 17: A new frightening angle on the Victorian drought was revealed yesterday by CSIRO expert Artemus Boor, leading gynaecologist and animal husband.

"With the decline in fertility out here," he reported, "Flora and Fauna are on their last legs." This is believed to be a reference to the Misses F. and F. Brown of Warracknabeal.

Farmer Brown himself mused: "Once they used to run wild here—about but they days are gone forever, it seems."

Nov. 17: Quintin Hogg (the late Lord Hails- ham) told Parliament that "there is no good reason for gaoling Australian visitors to Britain if they do not pose a social prob- lem." A chill of resentment swept through the lower reaches of Earl's Court. Immigrants A. A. ("Zoe") Calwell and "Bazaar" Humphries quickly organised a Committee of the 100 Expatriate Social Prohibits and sent a stiff note to the Man- ment. Hogg's remark was seen as a direct threat to gaol London's half-million Aus- tralians and destroy the future of the Anglo- Australian Popular Swap, which is expected to be completed in the 1970's.

Arrested in Panama was Heinrich Muell- er, heavily disguised as F. Willard Keith, insecticide peddler of Webb City, Missouri. In fact, so heavily disguised that they had to let him go, no doubt with an apology. Meanwhile, back at the homestead, Martin Bormann is still alive and living at Anzac House.

Nov. 21: Harold told the nation that it had "come of age" with our decision not to de- value. Since the ABC refused to assess Gough "equal time" to discuss the sterling devaluation (on the grounds that Holt's was not a political speech) they should at least have cut the segments that had political overtones—that way it would have made an interesting exercise in mime.

The best comment came from the SMH's Financial Editor. "Australia will truly 'come of age' when it doesn't feel a need to de- monstrate to others that it has come of age."

A week before re-elections Senator Turn- bull explained to the Press why he had taken so long to report to police the theft of his wife's $23,000 jewels from his Laun- ceston home: "I suppose if I had reported the jewellery missing immediately people would have said it was a political publicity stunt. Later (i.e. after the Senate voting) the jewels turned up in Mrs. Turnbull's swimming cap at their house. Not bad going really—nothing missing, much-needed publicity and no doubt a few sympathy votes thrown in for good measure.

Nov. 22: The Prime Minister was booted, cat-called and hissed by a large group of Young Labourers at St. Kilda Town Hall in a vote-catching display of martyrdom.

"Communists", the PM hissed back at them, as he thumbed nervously through Menzies' hand-me-down copy of "Teach-Yourself- Repartee." "Veterans" said it was Harold's best speech yet in an otherwise dull campa- ign.

B.P. (British Petroleum) announced that they had discovered a method of obtaining food from pure oil. In another ambitious project, scientists are attempting—to convert Bob Dyer's good oil into palatable TV fare.

Australia's Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Patrick Shaw, opposed China's admission to the UN with the explanation that this "would not automatically make China a res-pected member of the community of nations." Mr. Shaw interrupted his speech at one point to send a cheerio call to three of Australia's most respected friends—Rhodesia, Portugal and Greece—and lamented that mere contact with respect- ability could not be expected to have an immediate beneficial influence on China.

Nov. 24: The Government was predicted to win the Senate on a "heavy swing" by notorious soothsayer Rex Morgan. Mr. Morgan was suitably face-reddened on the Sunday. He could barely say even the traditional "sooth." The Gallup Poll having a bad trot and all that.

Nov. 25: Headline: "Sammy, Mai end marriage." Not only "Mai" but "did". Thus again the Rat Pack deserts the sinking mari- tal ship.

A 21-year-old au pair girl became the latest (18th) victim of "The Beast of North London." George Brown denies all knowl- edge...

Nov. 27: The two juvenile leads in ATN's local adventure series, "Riptide" were given to—yes, Australians! Playing within beam- ing distance of that great American charmer Dy Grinnin. The Fairfax group enthus- ised predictably about the local pair's "potential". Tough that ATN's sense of adventure and national pride never goes so far as to land locals in the star roles.

Melbourne's strike-threatening models came before State Minister for Labour and Industry, Mr. Rossett. They complained of "sweat shop" conditions.

The confrontation was a kind of industrial dispute offensive but presumably the ladies, emerging as they were from their sweatshops, were not surprisingly offensive to not use a discreet dab of the old Roll-on.

Nov. 28: "Illegal hooting? 7 fined" (Age). Not amongst this group were two policemen later charged with illegal truncheon-bludgeoning. Constable Les Broadfoot of Heidelberg was fined $10 for using a hand- held hoe and Constable G. ("Hurler") Thng was fined $20 for using "a hose not held in the hand."

Following the great French "Non", a hint of subversion at Woomera. When Aus- tralia's first space satellite fizzed on the landing pad, French workers nearby "cheer- ed ironically." Equally "tragic" was the failure of the French rocket to ignite at the next ELDO attempt.

"Cox & Box" is an old G' & S. musical comedy about a landlord who defrauded his two tenants by having them, unbeknowns, share use of a single room. A recent re- vall of the old musical has been playing to a captive audience and the Victorian Legis- lative Assembly. Cox (played by the Mel- bourne Stock Exchange), Box (played by the investing public) and the fly-by-night land- lord (Sir Frank Richardson) were grace- lessly panned by leading critics—the man who let the Cox Bros. swindle out of the box—B. J. Shaw.

Nov. 29: The Victorian Deputy Leader of the Country Party complained to State Parlia- ment about the showing of sex films on Sundays. Rylah is soon to introduce legis- lation proscribing lust on the Lord's Day.

Yes, it's 1967 but sometimes it's hard to tell... Sydney TV personality Dita Cobb was denied from radio station 2GB for using the word "bottom" on air. Dita is one of those hardy perennials, part of the Fair- fax stable of "personalities" who are con- stantly being interchanged between the Sun- ATN-2GB. Formerly their leading ace, her latest escapade has cause her to be shuffled to the posterior of the pack.

LONDON, Dec. 1: U. F. O. Calwell an- nounced today he would be soon coming home to land.

The famous Unidentified Flying Object has recently been reported circling the...
Northern Hemisphere. Perceptive journalists had picked up a faint message that sounded like "conspiracy."

"I will stir up my friends," croaked the Old Loner from afar.

In a written statement Whitlam made no comment but intimated that he did not believe in U.F.O.'s. If the U.F.O. lands off Sydney Heads it is understood he will be greeted by the police launch "Nemesis" and sent on a speech-making trip around Australia, courtesy H. Holt.

Dec. 1: The late Postmaster-General Hulme deplored the moral standards of the ABC. The swansong of an ageing intellectual cripple... "Jordan is accused of smear" (Age). In further Middle East flash reports from the Trades Hall Council, Jordan was also accused of diverting the mainstream of radical socialist thinking. The matter was referred to U Thant (played by G. Whitlam).

Dec. 3: A new insight into the "Pineapple Police State" was exposed at an Aboriginal Seminar in Townsville where one speaker pointed out that under Queensland regulations aboriginals could be detained in a dormitory for immoral conduct, being idle or careless at work, for failing to close a gate required to be shut, for destroying property, failing to obey orders or being insolent. There is no time limit on this detention and no right of appeal. Every State has its own Illiberal Government variation on Civil Liberties but the so-called "Brisbane Line" takes a lot of beating.

Dec. 4: Sir Henry Bolte denied that Melbourne's water regulations were due to his Government's bungling. "This drought is an act of God," he back-passed.

Tale of Two Candies. At Rome Ewa Aulin (Miss Hollywood Teenage '66, Miss Ewa Beauty '67), Swedish actress and title lead in the alleged "satire" Candy, was greeting the arrival of co-Starr Ringo. In Miami, Mrs. Candy Mossler, grandma-extraordinaire, was announcing her impending marriage to her young nephew, Melvin Powers. The kid had to beat a murder rap to get Candy off her former husband but it's unlikely there'll be a great rush of sportsmen trying to get Candy off the kid.

Dec. 5: Kudos to Billie Snedden for agreeing that some South Vietnamese war orphans should come to Australia. A silver-lining to the grey clouds of our otherwise tragic external policies.

Dec. 6: More Victorian embezzlement revealed, this time by Whelan—the Swindle-Wrecker... The Victorian Legislative Council abolished capital punishment for pregnant women. We foresee the day when the old file in the cake is replaced by a test-tube and semen syringe. And how many murderesses will regard rape as literally "a fate worse than death"? Ghoulish thoughts that hang over ghouls.

Dec. 24: The Three Wise Men of the East (played by Nasser, Dayan and Gen. Grivas) resort to their traditional game of dog in the manger. The Meddle East tensions rumble on in Arabia, Yemen and Aden. While in Cyprus it's tipped to be Turkey this Christmas.

DECEMBER 1: Don Dunstan is one of the "nouvelle vague" Whitlamites—full of novel ideas and vague ideological commitment. A vigorous sportsman, Don usually spends his leisure hours out on the hustings "soft-pedalling" the Labor platform. Today, however, the "Australian's" photographer has caught him at sea establishing his electoral plank on the new wave.

Meanwhile in Sydney Gough told the ABC Staff Association: "Concepts of public enterprise based on outright nationalisation and the creation of government monopolies have little relevance to contemporary Australian problems."
1967, Gough Whitlam recently told a friend, was the Year of Aviation—VIP flights, F111A's and even pilots' strikes. "1968 will be the Year of the Navy."

1968 Parliament will begin with an Opposition attack on the Government for its handling during the last four years of the Voyager Case. This attack was foreshadowed by Whitlam on November 16, during one of his election statements, when he revealed that the Liberal Member for Warringah, Mr. Edward St. John, QC, was circulating among government members a document "showing the falsifications, distortions and suppressions of Liberal ministers on this matter .

A diligent Press or an inquisitive public might be able to discover details".

It is not surprising that the general public has lost its inquisitiveness about this case as it has dropped on for too long to retain most people's interest. However, we have here tried to piece together the important facts that have emerged, to emphasise the scandal that has been revealed and, hopefully, to put in a bid for the title of "1968's Most Diligent Press".

On February 10, 1964, HMAS Melbourne and HMAS Voyager collided during night exercises. The disaster occurred off Jervis Bay, although in the heat of the moment the Navy originally pinpointed its rescue operations at a location somewhere west of the Blue Mountains.

Such disorientation was typical of the Navy in 1964. In 1958 Vendetta had crashed into the dock gates at Williamstown Dockyards; in 1960 Anzac holed the Tobruk during unsuccessful gunnery exercises and the Woomera exploded 20 miles off Sydney; in 1963 Queenborough and the British submarine Tabard collided off Jervis Bay; and in the same year five naval ratings lost their lives in a whaleboat.

A Royal Commission was obligatory. Sir John Spicer was subsequently appointed sole commissioner, with Smyth, QC, as his assistant. Sir John was a former Attorney-General under Menzies, a matter which raised criticism even at the time. John Jess told Parliament as early as 24th September, 1964: "I do not agree with judges being appointed from this House; and I do not agree that former Ministers of this Government should be appointed to take command of inquiries into matters in which the Commonwealth is vitally concerned . . . I do not know who appointed him (Smyth). I understand that he is a yachtsman and as far as I can ascertain, that was his only qualification in relation to knowledge of the sea."

Sir John had no first-hand knowledge of Naval technicalities and should not have sat on this Commission on his own. The Government's decision to appoint three judges to the second Voyager Commission shows its late acknowledgment of this.

From the start of the first Royal Commission it was clear that Captain Robertson was under attack and was not to obtain credit for the fair deal that was to be the lot of Captain Stevens, whose family was represented by Mr. F. M. Osborne (Ebsworth & Ebsworth), also a former minister in a Menzies Government.

It has been claimed that Sir Robert had little time for Robertson. From the outset the Commonwealth met the complete costs of legal representation for the families of Capt. Stevens and Lieut. Price, the officers most intimately concerned with the safety of the Voyager, but none whatsoever for Robertson, who began proceedings representing himself at the Bar table. It was only under pressure from Jess and other Liberal Party members that Sir Robert finally conceded Robertson representation (at first only junior counsel and later senior).

The Royal Commissioner went out of his way to refer to the one black mark against Robertson (he had once been censured for his handling of the Vendetta). He saw no reason to mention that Stevens had lost six months' seniority, had been passed over twice and also that he had been court-martialled when the Koala ran aground.

In fact, while Sir John ultimately apportioned the primary blame for the tragedy on the Voyager ("It can be said, I think, that the collision was caused by reason of Voyager making a turn beyond 020 degrees. It is not possible to form any firm conclusion as to why Voyager did this"), yet Robertson and two of his senior men (Kelly and Bate) were the only officers (men (Kelly and Bate) were the only officers) that were called upon by Sir John to give evidence. The officers most intimately concerned with the collision were not read in court and so the significance of these findings was never evident to the general public.

Yet when it was revealed to the Royal Commission that Stevens had drank at sea on the night of the collision, the reaction was nothing remarkable. When the autopsy reports came back on the only three Voyager bodies that were ever recovered from the sea, all had alcohol in their blood, but somehow these reports were not read in court and so the significance of these findings was never evident to the general public.

Mr. Edward St. John, in his plea for a second Royal Commission, told parliament: "I have looked at the Press to see how it reported the proceedings on that day when the autopsy reports and blood samples were produced in evidence. The Press knew nothing of this. Those reports and blood samples were tendered, but the reports were not read. The Press reported on that day the evidence of Admiral Gatacre in which he spoke of the admirable conduct of the captain of the Voyager. According to him, the captain was the paragon of all virtues".

The blood alcohol level for these, the only three bodies recovered, were: Stevens 25mg%, the Navigating Officer (Lieut. Cook) 15mg% and Able Seaman Parker 50mg%. 50mg% is accepted in Victoria and other states as intoxication but Able Seaman Parker was not on duty, although he was apparently beyond the Plimsoll line and thus committing an offence. The Navigating Officer had only 15mg% but he was an officer, St. John reminded parliament, 'who, I am told on expert advice,
I do not attempt to attack the Commissioner or counsel; but I am concerned with the cause of this disaster. It was curious that the steward was not asked about the captain's condition when the steward delivered the triple brandy to him. It is curious that these autopsy reports and blood samples were tendered but not read. The Press never woke up to the fact that the only three bodies that were recovered all contained a percentage of alcohol. It is curious that his Honour should have butted in to say, after the other samples were tendered: 'Very well. As I understand it—and I think this should be made clear early in the piece—there is no suggestion that the captain ... ' Mr. Smyth takes him up saying: 'No. Neither the captain nor the navigator was in any way affected by liquor ... . Then comes the evidence of Prof. Blackburn who was uncertain as to his qualifications, and his opinion that 25mg of alcohol was insufficient to affect Capt. Stevens.'

Prof. Blackburn was defended later in this debate by 'Puffing Billy' McMahon, who described him as "Professor Reuben Blackburn, who is a personal friend of mine". (Prof. Blackburn's full name is Charles Ruthvenickerton Blackburn, "Charles" to his friends.) The professor is undoubtedly a highly qualified academic but, despite layman McMahon's preconceptions, professors of medicine are not experts in every field. Prof. Blackburn had every reason to be "uncertain as to his qualifications" in the field of blood analysis, which is only loosely related to his principal field of expertise, liver disease.

When real experts in this field finally gave evidence—during the second Commission—a more alarming picture of Capt. Stevens' alcoholism emerged. The N.S.W. Government Analyst, who had performed the original analysis and had 20 years' experience behind him but whom no one had seen fit to call the first time, testified that he had indeed had great reservations about the accuracy of the readings. He identified one factor which certainly lowered the reading (the sample bottles were too large) and agreed that there might have been other factors having the same effect. While Prof. Blackburn himself testified that at a recent International Conference on Alcohol and Road Traffic Accidents it was agreed that relatively low concentrations of alcohol (20 to 40mg) can affect a person's judgment and slow his reactions.

The carelessness with which the first Commission omitted to explore the alcohol story at all becomes more inexplicable in view of Stevens' reputation as a drinker, which had earned him the now notorious nickname "Drunken Duncan". Robertson knew of this reputation but refused to let his counsel (Hicks, QC) raise the matter. Since there were rumours flying around the Navy at the time of the first Commission that Stevens was drunk on the night of the collision it is inconceivable that none of this came to the ears of Smyth. Yet nothing was said.

It is in this context that Peter Cabban made his first statement to Smyth, in which he denied that Stevens ever drank at sea but affirmed that he more than made up for this abstinence when in port. Cabban, it must be remembered, was not some cabin-boy passing on third-hand mess gossip—though his statement was given about that much credence—he had been second-in-command to Stevens over a long period, ending a mere three months before the collision.

Why did Smyth never bring Cabban before the first Commission?

The Minister for the Navy (Mr. Chipp) told Parliament during the Voyager debate this year that "Mr. Smyth had formed the judgment that he (Cabban) was unreliable and his evidence was unsubstantiated and irrelevant" but Smyth denies on oath that he had been asked, he would have said Cabban's evidence was irrelevant". (SMH, August 21). Incidentally, this was the second time that day that Smyth alleged the Minister had misinformed the House. At the end of 1965 Chipp claimed Smyth had told him that all relevant witnesses had been called at the first Commission and Smyth categorically denying having made any such assurance.

Too many reasons have been given for Smyth's failing to call Cabban to the witness stand during the first Commission for one not to be suspicious. The first excuse was the most ludicrous: it was claimed that Smyth conceived that Cabban was something of a drunkard. Smyth had sent a Commonwealth policeman (Turner) out to interview Cabban originally about Stevens' navigating ability. Turner had allegedly claimed that he was so much under the influence of liquor he didn't think it was any use continuing the interview. Under cross-examination Smyth agreed that the statement obtained from Turner at this interview was incoherent and highly technical in parts. Since the Naval Board during the second Commission was trying to paint a picture...
This is not a very convincing performance by a senior Queen’s Counsel and gives rise to grave suspicions, particularly in view of the affidavits presented to the second Commission by Judge David Hicks. Hicks represented Capt. Robertson at the first Commission and since then has been appointed to a N.S.W. District Court Judge and Chairman of Quarter Sessions. This is the learned judge’s recollection of the Spicer Commission: “I never knew of any arrangement between counsel assisting the Commission (Smyth) and counsel appearing for the Stevens family to suppress evidence concerning drinking. On the other hand I could not help noticing during the course of the Commission that these counsel never had harsh words even though, at some stage or another, most other counsel did.”

When Sir John Spicer was appointed Royal Commissioner, Sir Robert Menzies, then PM, declared with his usual pious rhetoric: “In relation to this collision, it is essential that nothing that should be hidden is hidden. That is the whole object in this matter... So far as we are concerned, no effort will be spared in bringing to light all the facts relating to this most tragic event.”

That, if you like, was where the Voyager credibility gap began. The longer the second commission has lasted the more inadequate Sir John Spicer’s investigation appears. Cabban’s evidence should never have been excluded; the triple brandy and blood alcohol levels should never have been dismissed so summarily; Capt. Robertson should never have been treated in such a patently unfair manner. A little more effort in fact could have been well expended.

During the period between the first and second Royal Commissions, as is well known, a number of individuals within the Liberal Party attempted to re-open the case. They met a stone wall and remarkable lack of co-operation. When copies of the Spicer Commission transcript were requested from the Parliamentary Library, for example, it was learnt that there was a Cabinet instruction against this (later removed by the Attorney-General under pressure).

On the afternoon and evening of May 16, 1967, Messrs. Jess, St. John and Turner put their promotion prospects on the line by demanding from their own Government a new inquiry. Despite their plea that the matter was above party politics, they were met by the usual debating-club points-taking of the Opposition and distortion and subterfuge by the Government, whose ranks contain a stupendous array of ex-Ministers of the Navy (McMahon, Dr. Forbes, Senator Gorton, Chaney and the present incumbent, Chipp).

Mr. McMahon, who at such times always shows a fine flair for character assassination, enlivened the House with a collection of blemishes on Cabban’s naval record. These were taken from a beautifully timed text prepared for the occasion by the Chief of the Naval Staff, Rear-Admiral McNicoll, and entitled "The Character of Cabban". Mr. McMahon somehow failed to mention that Cabban had been four times recommended for immediate promotion—twice by Stevens—and that Admiral McNicoll had himself confirmed Cabban for promotion. This might have put his rather unkind remarks in better perspective.

But the cornerstone of the Government’s rebuttal of Cabban’s statement was that it was "uncorroborated" and statements were gleefully read to Parliament which "contradicted Cabban. This felt-motif was popularised by the unfortunate Chipp and taken up by that grand pair of improvisers on a good tune, the PM ("We are now told on the uncorroborated evidence of one man that we have been dealing with a chronic drunkard!") — H. Holt) and McMahon ("I want to state in clear language that I do not think there is evidence that Captain Stevens drank to excess").

How much diligent research stood behind such a bland reassurance to Parliament? When it came to the crunch, there were a large number of officers who testified to the second Commission that they could remember Stevens drunk on one or more occasions. Even the statements read to Parliament, which were supposed to contradict Cabban, might well have been conceived as collaboration, as for example Griffith’s statement already quoted. But before they took up this catchcry perhaps the Government members should have explored the methods used to get these "contradictory" statements.

In his evidence to the second Commission Griffith testified that when he made his statement to the Solicitor-General
"my part was to try to put matters back in perspective". Amplifying on this, he said he was trying not to exaggerate but "I would prefer, if one was going to err, to err favourably rather than unfavourably". In one part of his statement he had altered his description of Stevens as a "heavy drinker" to "moderate drinker" because he thought the former was "a little unkind". In another part he told an outright lie: referring to the birthday dinner he said "It is true that the captain had to be excused at an early stage during the dinner. I did not notice anything unusual at the time." In fact, he later admitted he recognised that the captain was drunk.

The Government, in its efforts to prevent a new inquiry, quoted to Parliament statements that were not in all honesty worth the paper they were written on. Worse still, sitting in Parliament that day was Mr. Samuel Landau, Secretary of the Ministry of Defence at Bath, England, and the only minor doctor, Surgeon-Lieutenant Tiller. He had telegraphed from London confirmation that there were two statements he had not handed the Minister which further corroborated Cabban. One, a part of Capt. Willis' statement which was omitted, was only minor.

The other was from Voyager's former doctor, Surgeon-Lieutenant Tiller. He had telegraphed from London confirmation that Stevens was very drunk at the birthday dinner. Landau told the second Commission that he had regarded Tiller's statements as "too cryptic". "I said that in the circumstances I thought it might be better if I destroyed the existing comments and having done that send back for further and fresh comments."

Landau was also asked at this time about Tiller's evidence on the telephone conversations in which Landau persuaded him to give permission for destroying these comments: "I got the feeling that Landau was keen for me to consent to destruction of my answers." Landau said he had no idea how Tiller got this idea "unless it arises from the fact that I did repeat it to make sure I had his wishes because I was a bit concerned about fading-out" (on the telephone connection).

Whatever the truth of this last allegation, there is no denying that Landau sat in Parliament knowing that the Minister was incorrect in saying that Cabban could find no corroboration.

This initial calumny of the Navy Department was to be compounded in the days ahead. Cabban's counsel at the second commission (Hiatt, QC) in his closing address was forced to take back his allegation that the Navy Department had stood over some of the witnesses. But it is a fact that when it was alleged "trying to give a false impression" for Cabban's statement the Solicitor-General's Department, with vested interests in the case, can exploit the loyalty, inexperience and sense of self-preservation of its dependents.

If the second Commission is really to close the book it must come to grips with the illusion and dishonesty that have been the hallmarks of this case since it began—indeed it must grapple with these unpleasant facts and, hopefully, point to ways by which they may be eliminated in future.

And when Parliament sits next, the ALP will be putting Chipp's head on the block:

• why is the Navy so accident-prone?
• why was only a sole commissioner of the Navy Department used?
• why was Robertson chosen as scapegoat?
• why didn't Chipp know what was going on in his own department?
• why is he still in Cabinet?
• why was the Government so reluctant to set up a second Commission?

After Howson's miserable performance over VIP's and Chipp's bumbling of the Voyager affair, the credibility gap has grown to a chasm. Who will be the next to fall in?

When one comes to examine the evidence given at the recent second Commission, in fact, it seems to be an uncanny phenomenon that the further an officer is stationed from Naval HQ the more likely he is to confirm Cabban's allegations. With the sole exception of Commander David Martin (stationed at Jervis Bay) all the witnesses strongly supporting Cabban were from outside Australia: Commander Irwin (attached to the Ministry of Defence at Bath, England), Lieut.-Commander Capendale (of the British Navy), Lieut.-Commander Holmes (serving on HMAS Hobart in Vietnam), Arthur Barclay Jamieson (of the Australian Embassy in Tokyo), RAAF Squadron Leader Farrelly and Dutch businessman Lieberschutz. They are certain of the facts and resolute in their confirmation. It would be interesting to know when the parliamentarians who spoke so vehemently about lack of corroboration first heard of their evidence.

By way of contrast, the evidence of the Australian serving officers is evasive, vague and at times hilarious. One officer remembers Stevens' addiction to milk; another admits "he must have missed a lot" at the birthday party. There is the suggestion of records being lost and others falsified.

There is the systematic going back on evidence. Petty Officer Freeman originally stated that Stevens went "regularly" to the sick-bay but later felt he had "exaggerated". Chief Petty Officer Youngs said that whereas he had originally said Stevens was in bed after Tokyo "for five days", he should have said "for about five days".

At the present moment the Royal Commissioners of the second inquiry are considering their findings. Some of these are inescapable, others will require courage. It, for example, the birthday party events and the handing over of command to Cabban outside Tokyo were true, as is now almost conceded, Stevens was liable to court martial and loss of his command, as also if his ulcer was as bad as the almost unanimous evidence testifies.

But, whatever the judgment on Stevens, this should only be the beginning of the findings. The general public will be more concerned by the exposure by this second investigation of the weakness of any such public inquiry. The Voyager Case has undermined an already crumbling faith in Royal Commissions.
When Andrew T. Jones stumbled by mistake into the political arena some twelve months ago, he was treated by press, opposition and even his own party with that amiable derision which medieval England reserved for its village idiots. But now, almost overnight, Canberra's Clown Prince is being taken very seriously indeed.

Recently, for example, an anonymous group provided the backing—financial as well as musical—for his hit-parade dirge about "the Red Cancer of Communism". and then be heard of no more. And when Andrew told tales out of school to the "Adelaide Liberal Dining Club's prize for "Services to Labor."

But then somebody took Andrew firmly by the scruff of the neck. His chances of becoming a folk hero overnight were increased by his uncompromising attitude the morning after—"I neither regret the speech I made nor do I apologise for it as I tried to be as objective as possible," he told the "Sydney Morning Herald" on April 21.

But then somebody took Andrew firmly in hand. They wrote him a speech which, although indeed "The most abject act of contrition by a politician in recent memory" (SMH 3-5-67) at least aroused sufficiently oatish and impecunious interjections from the Opposition benches (and particularly from Mr. Calwell) to swing public sympathy solidly behind the misercor)

Jones: "What are your instructions for addressing a member of Parliament?"

Highway Patrolman: "I have addressed you as "Sir" and "Mr. Jones"—what else would I call you?"

Jones: "I was booked for 48 on Port Adelaide Road the other day by a car similar to the one you are driving, and had to ring Superintendent Brebner."

Just what Superintendent Brebner required in order to prevent pre-trial absoluition is not quite clear. but presumably he is not retained by the State merely to assist motorists in trouble with the police. For somebody with influence, Andrew must have been a special case.

To lose "Advertiser" support would be a disaster, and if the somepine up there who takes the "Advertiser" is not aware enough for that blue-ribbon seat. Harold may be for that blue-ribbon seat. Harold may be one of those who buys a copy of the "Advertiser" simply to lend it to his car.”
As George Harrison said in his bed-sitar, "Chacun son guru", or a dollar for your thoughts — and dollar is the mantra.

All about O

Editors: Richard Walsh, Dean Letcher.

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**Phizzgigs cont.**

Ray had a solid career and so has his brother, Thomas Victor Maher, OBE. In fact, brother Tom has been very big in tariffs and customs both privately and as a civil servant. And when he retired as NSW Collector of Customs in 1960 upon reaching 65, what position could a grateful Customs administration offer him? Why, Commonwealth (Appeals) Censor and when brother Ray was a bit up against it what position could a . . . ?

**Rise & Fall**

At 11 O'clock on election night, the ALP was jubilant as the Senate figures ran 29-27-4 in Labor's favour. All that government ministers could muster were sourpuss comments about the results favouring the DLP and that "there was no comfort in it for the ALP". The electorate is becoming used to Ministers' words growing less and less true as time goes by but this time it was true. Through the next week there was a startling erosion of the ALP's grip on the Senate.

As counting progressed, first South Australia and then Western Australia seemed to slip away to the government with dispiriting momentum. The final results haven't been posted as we go to press but it looks more like a stalemate, than victory for Gough's new-style ALP.

Sir Edwin Hicks' retirement after eleven years, as head of the Defence Department climaxed several months' behind-the-scenes scuffling amongst the contenders to his throne. Unfortunately the heads of the Services Departments—who might normally be expected to be recruited to the post—had each successively blown up their chances with their indiscretions. The Army's Bruce White was the first to go when, at the last elections, he allowed slip a few confidential remarks on the wisdom of Vietnam. Then 'Tich' McFarlane was implicated in the VIP scandal and the Navy's Landau in the Voyager.

So Sir Henry Bland was transferred across from the Department of Labour and Industry where he has learnt about discretion under Holt (Minister for Labour up to 1958) and then McMahon. He also has the advantage of personal acquaintance with the PM and, in the event of a palace revolution, his successor.

As we go to press, details of the Cabinet reshuffle have begun to leak. Hasluck is certainly no loss, nor is Hulme. The boot turned on the green light to sycophancy. And then McMahon. He also has the advantage of personal acquaintance with the PM and, in the event of a palace revolution, his successor.
• WHY do we build skyscrapers? Are they anything more than substitute trees?

• WHY do our children's idols choose non-human names? The Monkees, the Beatles and the blatant Animals.

• WHY do low, sloping foreheads, close-set eyes and powerful jaws mark society's authority-figures...note their shuffling gait and flattened prehensile feet.

Why do we choose ape-like men for the police?

• WHY is the Prime Minister amazingly "refreshed" by staying underwater for hours. Does his subconscious 'remember' his natural habitat? What are his ears but vestigial gills?

• WHY is a man's home his castle? Even a dung-beetle defends its pile to the death...is there a link?

• WHY did newspapers all over the world serialise "The Hairy Human"? Is it an amazing insight or just pop-zooLOGY? Is it an example of editors showing the pre-conscious "herd instinct"?
THE UDDER SIDE

INDIA has sacred cows, we have sacred cow cockies. For years they have been milking the economy while the milksop taxpayers were deluded into thinking that all the subsidies, bounties, grants and concessions are little enough thanks for a gruelling life of service to the community...

5am: Get wife and kids up. Switch on silo-to-milkshed conveyor belt. Wash hands, face and udders. Back to bed.
8am: Up for milk and papers, wife off to work. Bed.
9.30am: Co-op man calls, live tadpoles in milk again, promise more kero in tomorrow. Collect mail—CSIRO pamphlets, cream cheque, superphosphate bounty cheque, spiny tussock compo cheque.
10.30am: Take Dunfurnleyshire Proudfoot III semen out of fridge and down to the Five Acre. Serve Daisy, Strawberry and feed vealers.
11.00am: Vet arrives with anti-bloat for old Ruby. Lucky she's on pensioner medical scheme. Fill out HCF forms for rest of herd. Confirm free TB chest X-ray appointments for the lot.
2.30pm: Pasture Protection block about spiny tussock. I complain not growing fast enough but pricklypear, lantana and Salvation Janet thriving. Bloke leaves acid for blackberries so down to serve Ruby with it before “People in Conflict”. Fill out Ruby’s MBF claim form during “Casebook”.

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