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ONE MORE WEEK

Trans-Tasman TAB

AMONG THOSE TAKING an intense interest in this year's Melbourne Cup is one surprise entry — the New Zealand Government, which hopes to pass legislation in time to enable New Zealanders to bet on the Cup with their own TAB and so save most of the \$150,000 which New Zealanders normally wager with Australian bookmakers backing N.Z. stayers which have crossed the Tasman to take part in, and in some years dominate, Melbourne's spring racing. This year, for instance, New Zealand money will be following Terrific and Stellar Belle, both N.Z.-owned, with a possible saver on Sunhaven, N.Z.-bred. In other years, \$150,000 may not have seemed enough to worry over, but today, with a balance of payments crisis, it helps.

The plans in Iran

SYDNEY CITY and regional planner George Clarke returned last week from a month in Iran, convinced that Iran could give Australia some useful lessons in the cutting of red tape. Mr. Clarke, whose firm, URBSEARCH (Urban Research Centre), has been appointed to review city and regional development activities throughout Iran, told us: "The Americans working in Iran used to get impatient at having to wait a fortnight for a letter from a government department. I used to tell them that if they were in Australia they'd have to wait six months."

Mr. Clarke said that before going ahead with its planning program the Iranian Government called in an American professor of political science to present a "plan for planning." "The trouble with Australia — where there is no National Plan Organisation as there is in Iran — is that all the electorates demand 'equal' treatment, and it's politically difficult for either Federal or State governments to have any coherent regional development plans and policies. They ought to decide that they can't develop all of our small country towns, which will decline anyway. They should concentrate investment at growth points. Victoria seems to be recognising this with the Parliamentary Committee's inquiry. It recommended decentralisation to three Victorian provincial towns. But the N.S.W. State Government is not facing up to its metropolitan problems. They seem to think if they close their eyes they'll go

away. Of course, if we did concentrate planning into one Federal body as Iran is doing, we might, in the Australian fashion, simply create a mammoth bureaucracy."

The son of Whistler's Mother

"I CAN PLAY ANYTHING — almost anything — you care to name, except 'The Flight of the Bumble Bee,'" Mr. Des Lane, the only penny whistle virtuoso in the world, who is currently at the Silver Spade in Sydney, told us with an understandable air of pride. "The penny whistle is second nature to me now, I've been playing it since I was eight."

"I can manage two-and-one-third octaves, which as you say is only a fraction less than Barbra Streisand can do with her voice. Penny whistles — here is one which I have had for 14 years — are only brass, you know, and have only six holes. Musicians can't believe what I can do with it, although that's rather blowing my own, well, trumpet, isn't it?"

"The whistle cost me 2/9d., and the most expensive one fetches 10/-. My father played one, and my Irish uncle danced on a door that was laid flat and played a fife. I'm a jazz musician, but I have to be commercial. I can play 'The Night They Dropped a Clanger' theme, 'How High The Moon,' 'The Happy Whistler,' 'The Swinging Shepherd Blues,' and 'Anthropology.'"

"Flute concertos? Oh, no, not the classics yet, although theoretically I suppose you could. After all, Benjamin Britten composed a work for the mouth-organ, didn't he? The technique? It's all in the blowing. The minutest amount of air has to go through the whistle, you see. And I've developed a very special technique of fingering."

"It's taken me about 14 to 15 years to perfect the instrument, to get to where I don't think about playing it. I can tap dance while I'm playing, keep

my feet going the whole time, you see."

"I began with a group, then a trio, then a duo, and finally I was on my own. I was looking for an individual approach as whistler, a style. No one else in the world, other than street beggars, was using the penny whistle to earn money; it was and is a unique act. I became less and less nervous and more and more myself, and if you're yourself an audience will accept you; if you aren't yourself an audience won't."

"Finally I got on to 'Camera One,' a show for professionals who hadn't made it. It was on TV in Britain, and the result was that I was a very big hit, offers, more offers, and I was launched on my career as the Penny Whistle Man."

"I've written numbers for the whistle. An old lady in Glasgow wrote and said her husband had played a penny whistle in the Boer War, and asked me for one. I sent her a whistle and she forwarded me Irish linen handkerchiefs."

"At the Silver Spade, I play 'Edelweiss,' 'I Left My Heart in San Francisco,' and 'San Francisco.' At the end of the first performance my mouth felt like this bedspread. Here, I'll play you some of the music now. The audiences at the Silver Spade are very nice. Audiences here are wonderful." And the Penny Whistle Man picked up his whistle and whistled.

By her bootstraps

THE PRIZE for film publicity handouts must surely go to Twentieth Century-Fox for its new life story of Gertrude Lawrence, "Star." "Lawrence was a Clapham-born cockney girl who tugged herself literally by frayed bootstraps out of squalid surroundings toward a glittering world where eventually she became a true queen without advantage of royalty."

ALL THEIR OWN WORK

Communism, like the Church, started off OK, but then it became nasty and it's collective.

— Marianne Faithfull.

The appointment of a Professor to the Chair of Eye Health at Sydney University is a hot ophthalmological potato.

— Dr. E. V. Waddy Pockley.

I don't mind how strange folk are so long as they're clean and tidy.

— Robert Graves.

Van Cliburn can have the best trousers I've got.

— President Johnson.

The only way to reform Canon Law is to can it.

— Father John Kavanaugh.

The dangerous precedent of banning cigarette advertising is that established brands remain dormant. If a new or established company brings out a new cigarette that may be so-called safer, it won't be sold because of the plain fact that you cannot sell anything that you cannot advertise.

— Brian F. McCabe, of Foote, Cone and Belding.

That's the trickiest part—playing a man who is playing a woman who is not a woman but a man.

— Sir Alec Guinness on his role in "Mrs. Astington."

Communists have taken over England, though nobody knows it. England is lost in a Sargasso Sea of sex, sadism, and psychedelics.

— Sir Wilfred Kent-Hughes.