

The next university

SIR, — Congratulations to the Minister for Education, Mr Willis, for supporting the recommendation of the NSW Universities Board to establish the next university at Campbelltown by about 1978 ("Herald," August 19).

This is extremely good news for the residents of the western and south-western suburbs generally and is an example of far-reaching foresight by the minister.

The Government's commitment to support the development of the new City of Campbelltown will be reinforced by the proposal which provides confidence for young married couples to live in the region, with full knowledge that the tertiary education requirements of their children (and indeed their own) will be satisfied.

Perhaps some further far-sighted planning will produce a more "open" and less costly university structure and administration than we now have. Innovations along the lines put forward by Professor S. Encel, University of NSW, would be both welcome and opportune.

N. INGHAM.

Wahroonga.

Faults in cars

SIR,—Sturt Griffith ("Herald," August 24) made a serious error by implying that the number of faults on delivery in any given new car is inversely proportional to the selling price of that car.

His inference that the highly priced British cars are more reliable than the average simply does not agree with the facts.

"Which," the magazine of the UK consumers' association (the world's most impartial auto-testing authority, I believe), in 1970 conducted an exhaustive comparison of six cars, five of them relatively expensive British makes. I quote from its summary of defects during running (June, 1970):

"Our (Aston Martin) DB5 gave us quite a lot of trouble."

"Our Bentley was fairly troublesome, and very expensive."

"Our Daimler developed a cracked piston crown . . . After tests, its condition was rather poor."

"Our Rover, like our DB5, came to grief on the maximum speed trials."

And from the October, 1969 edition:

"Our Jaguar (XJ6) gave a lot of trouble."

In each case, detailed accounts of all faults were given in the text.

The problem of faults in new cars is world-wide, but it is less evident in cars assembled in Japan. "Which" (December, 1970) said of the Mazda 1800:

" . . . Very reliable for us. Overall, excellent."

In the combined RACV, RACWA warranty defects survey 1970-71 (results published in "The National Times", September 27, 1971), covering 16 of the most popular makes of car on Australian roads, Mazda showed the least defects of all.

Therefore, I question Sturt Griffith's assumption that defects in new cars arise solely from the lack of skill of their assemblers. Surely the random nature of these defects suggests that the workers can perform their given functions properly when they make the effort.

I believe that it is the attitude of our auto worker, not his technical skill, which is at fault. Japanese workers have a philosophy towards their work which is in harmony with high productivity.

The price of a motor car is not necessarily a reliable guide as to the quality of its assembly.

I have no connection with Toyo Kogyo Ltd (Mazda) nor with any other Japanese car manufacturer.

DAVID LEYSON.

Epping.

Poverty and social services

SIR,—About two years ago you published a letter from me which called for the setting up of a Royal Commission to inquire into the causes of poverty in Australia. It is now at last good to know that the Prime Minister has promised that such an inquiry will take place.

It is very much to be hoped that the inquiry will investigate deficiencies in our social services, such as the inordinately long waiting period before national assistance is given to those in need, lack of an adequate home-help service, lack of an adequate domiciliary nursing service, and the housing of psychiatric and former psychiatric patients in private nursing homes which often lack any of the ancillary services available in State psychiatric institutions.

(Rev) JOHN F. S. CAMPBELL.
Leura.

Woolloomooloo

SIR,—I have read with interest Hamish McDonald's article ("Herald," August 23) on the problems of the redevelopment of Woolloomooloo in relation to the strategic plan.

The City Council's ultimate decision to administer development control within that area in the light of the 1969 State Planning Authority study was in line with the recommendations of the strategic plan consultants, who were responsible for the formulation of the revised floor space ratio code for the City as adopted by the council in December, 1971.

To reach such a decision was no easy task, necessitating a balanced evaluation of what should be considered desirable in terms of good planning but related in turn to the projected City growth and future transportation capabilities, as against commitments in land transactions and amalgamations made in good faith by

those encouraged to proceed with development proposals by the very existence of the SPA plan.

One aspect of the situation which is often overlooked is the fact that the statutory planning scheme, gazetted shortly prior to the release of the strategic plan, specifically laid down that development applications for Woolloomooloo were to be subject to approval by the SPA, which thus became, together with the Heights of Buildings Committee but with the exclusion of the minister, the ultimate authority empowered to overrule a decision made by the City Council. Having regard to these partic-

ular circumstances, it appeared logical for the consultants to recommend to the council that, for administrative purposes, it should adopt the SPA study as a basis on which development applications should be processed.

However, as the article so properly points out, the ultimate decision as to the future of the area will be resolved not only by the various authorities concerned, who are jointly working to that end, but also by the law of supply and demand.

(Ald) ANDREW BRIGER,
Chairman,
City Development Committee.

Sydney.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Intensive care costs

SIR, — Under the national health scheme, whereby most forms of hospitalisation are deemed to be covered by contributors' payments to funds, it is quite incongruous that where newborn babies are placed in intensive care wards and are charged for such accommodation, no rebate is allowed.

The Hospitals Contribution Fund of Australia politely informed me that "as Commonwealth regulations and fund rules stipulate, there is no entitlement to benefit for the child whilst the mother herself is a patient at the hospital." Not all hospitals charge for this separate accommodation, but who can blame those who do so when such highly specialised treatment is afforded in the intensive care wards?

It must come as quite a shock to many young couples struggl-

ing to save for a home or lucky enough to have purchased one but still living on a tight budget to discover that, depending on the length of the mother's or the baby's hospitalisation, they must pay large sums in hospital fees when they thought they would be fully covered through their health fund.

It is time the Government realised that many newborn babies require intensive care treatment for a variety of reasons; but surely hospitals must charge to meet the cost of such hospitalisation and contributors should be entitled to recoup these charges from the funds.

(Mrs) L. M. CURTIS.

Little Bay.

On smoking

SIR, — In reply to A. Edgar's letter (August 8) on smoking, the references required are:

"Smoking Habits of Australian Schoolchildren," National Health and Medical Research Council Report, May, 1969, Brisbane.

"Stop and Think — Is Smoking Worth the Risk?", pamphlet of the NSW Department of Health and the Australian Council on Smoking and Health.

I apologise for the incorrect wording concerning NSW smokers. "Men and boys" should have read "adult males" (similarly with "adult females.")

A report published on July 29 in "The Medical Journal of Australia" indicates that tobacco is used by 50.6 per cent of males and 44.3 per cent of females between 14 and 16 in a Sydney suburb.

A. Edgar's letter indicates the problem of communicating correct information to a public generally uninitiated in the interpretation of statistics, especially concerning correlations and causes.

It is unfair and culpable to suggest to smokers that because some do not suffer a disease, and because a non-smoker occasionally gets lung cancer (and then of a different type), that there is no risk. Of course the causes of emphysema and heart disease are not clear. It was never suggested that they were, but there are known contributing factors.

Lack of complete knowledge of causes does not negate the fact that the general trend among those who smoke is more prolonged illness, more respiratory disease, decreased mental and physical performance and more dental problems.

Young people are well aware

of smoking's advertised image of "success." It is reasonable to say that tobacco is no key to this magic world, and any evidence so far suggests the reverse is true. At no stage was it suggested that tobacco was the cause of "failure."

Why is it assumed that, when health problems relating to tobacco are discussed, one is being subjected to propaganda? Who can have a vested interest in finding tobacco harmful? Presumably some have a vested interest in continually attempting to make legitimate evidence appear spurious.

I presume A. Edgar is aware of the automatic statistical assumption he/she made, concerning the sex distribution of Australian doctors!

ANN LONG, MBBS.

Camperdown.

Sculpture in new buildings

SIR,—People who care cannot but applaud the suggestions of William R. C. Black (Letters, August 23) regarding facilities in office-building foyers and integration of sculpture to create a stimulating city climate, but it is unrealistic to expect help from our forever struggling Art Gallery.

Many cities overseas provide for a percentage of building costs to be allocated towards inclusion of art and it would be most practical and proper to put such a clause into our local building code.

Enlightened developers know that the initial outlay repays itself many times over in increased prestige as well as revenue.

The Society of Sculptors and Associates is at present involved in organising a sculpture competition for a large Eastern Suburbs project and is able and prepared to conduct similar ones for any interested party, no matter how large or small the requirements.

ANNA COHN,

Honorary Secretary,
Society of Sculptors and
Associates.

Broadway.

VICE-REGAL

Their Excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Hasluck were guests of honour at a luncheon at Government House, Perth, yesterday afternoon.

In the evening Sir Paul and Lady Hasluck arrived in Sydney from Perth.



"Great! Bob Hawke can look after our strikes while we sit them out on the French Riviera!"

SMH 28 August 1972

Nixon campaign allegations

WASHINGTON, Sunday. — Charges that President Nixon's Re-election Committee apparently broke the law in its handling of campaign contributions were referred today to the US Attorney - General, Mr Richard Kleindienst.

The Justice Department referred the report which was from a watchdog agency of Congress — the General Accounting Office (GAO).

But Lawrence O'Brien, the campaign chairman for Democratic presidential candidate Senator George McGovern, expressed doubt that Mr Kleindienst, a Nixon appointee, would make any early moves in the case.

The charges made in the GAO report yesterday arose from an audit after the June break-in at the Democratic Party headquarters in Washington.

The break-in produced allegations that the headquarters, at Washington's Watergate Hotel, had been bugged.

Press allegations about financial dealings by President Nixon's Re-election Committee preceded the GAO audit.

The GAO said that it had been unable to close "certain gaps in the information we have been able to obtain."

It said the committee to re-elect the President apparently had violated the 1971 law by not revealing a \$25,000 (\$A21,000) campaign donation by a Minneapolis businessman, Mr Dwayne Andreas.

Mr Andreas handed the money in cash to Mr Kenneth Dahlberg, the Republican campaign's mid-western finance chief, at a Miami golf course on April 9, two days after the contributions law came into effect.

The \$25,000, put in the hands of other committee officials, was eventually paid into an account controlled by Mr Bernard Barker, one of five men accused of breaking into

the Democratic Party headquarters.

Listing the apparent violation, the report said the committee had failed to keep a detailed account not only of the amount spent from the \$25,000 "Dahlberg cheque" but also that from four other cheques drawn on a Mexican bank totalling \$89,000 (\$A75,000).

Additional possible violations referred to Mr Kleindienst for further investigation included a charge that the committee

had failed to keep a detailed and exact account of a \$350,000 (\$A294,000) cash fund and the contributions that may have been received after April 6.

In a statement issued within three hours, the Republican Re-election Committee said that the document was "inaccurate" and "incomplete."

The western White House at San Clemente, where Mr Nixon is spending the weekend, declined to comment on the report.

10 rebels held in Argentine raids

BUENOS AIRES, Sunday. — Argentine police said they had arrested 10 suspected guerillas yesterday and seized arms and explosives in a series of pre-dawn raids.

They also had found a cellar fitted out as a "people's prison" like the ones in which guerillas had previously held kidnapped hostages.

Two bombs exploded outside military offices in the provincial cities of Parana and Bahia Blanca

early yesterday, causing moderate damage but no casualties.

In Tucuman, the main sugar-producing centre in northern Argentina, more than 100 students were arrested when they left a university building they had occupied for three days.

The occupation was in protest against the killing of 16 guerillas by military guards at Trelew naval air base.

(AAP-Reuters)

China accuses US

HONG KONG, Sunday.—China has accused the United States of trying to deny responsibility for bombing a Chinese lifeboat off the North Vietnamese coast on Tuesday.

A Foreign Ministry statement issued yesterday said: "that the US aircraft bombed and destroyed the Chinese lifeboat and killed five Chinese crew members on it is undeniable, iron-clad fact."

"Now while admitting that it had bombed and destroyed a boat at the said time and place, the command of the US forces of aggression against Vietnam has without any grounds whatsoever, arbitrarily asserted that the boat bombed was a 'supply craft.'"

(AAP)



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