

Eastern suburbs blocks rising \$48 each week

Land prices up 62.6 p.c.

Knox survey 'frightening'

By RON HOLDSWORTH, our Urban Affairs Reporter

The cost of a building block in Melbourne's outer eastern suburbs is rising by an average of \$48 a week, according to a survey carried out by Knox city council.

In Knox, one of the fastest growing suburban areas, the average land price increase was 62.6 per cent. In the 12 months to February this year.

The town clerk (Mr. N. Haynes) said yesterday prices went up even faster in the past three months.

Canberra acts to curb price rises

From ALLAN BARNES

CANBERRA. — The Federal Government yesterday announced four measures aimed at curbing rising prices.

The Commonwealth's announcements were a prelude to a special Premiers' conference in Canberra today at which the States will be asked to impose controls on the prices of consumer goods.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Whitlam) will chair the meeting with the six Premiers today in the most concerted bid in the past 25 years to develop Commonwealth-State cooperation in the prices field.

As a prelude to the meeting, Mr. Whitlam announced that he would ask the Premiers to agree to a meeting of Federal and State Ministers to discuss the implementation of uniform standards to protect consumers.

The Federal Treasurer (Mr. Crean) introduced legislation for the establishment of a prices justification tribunal which will probe proposed price increases.

The Minister for the Capital Territory (Mr. Enderby) announced that he would reactivate a 1949 ordinance to give him power to appoint a controller of prices to fix maximum prices for goods and services in the A.C.T. and the Northern Territory.

The Minister for Science (Mr. Morrison) said a special unit would be set up within the CSIRO to carry out research into standards for consumer goods. Federal information on standards would be made available to the States to enable them to use their powers to protect consumers.

Mr. Whitlam and Mr. Crean are expected to outline these Commonwealth initiatives to the Premiers at the meeting in Canberra today.

They will present them as an indication of the Federal Government's efforts to control rising prices and to co-operate with the States in helping consumers.

Continued - 2.

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Mr. Hunt said Knox was an exceptional case and rises in other municipalities had not been as great.

Another major factor in increasing prices was the cost of services and the Premier (Mr. Hamer) had announced proposals to reduce these.

In CANBERRA yesterday the Treasurer (Mr. Crean) announced a special licence by the Government to comment on economic trends.

I won't speak ill: \$18 a week widow

By NEIL MOONEY

"I can't speak ill of the dead," a 69-year-old widow said yesterday after a judge ruled her \$18-a-week bequest from her late husband's \$175,543 estate was not enough.

The widow, Mrs. Iris Eva Carroll, bore 13 children to her husband.

Mr. Justice Anderson directed in the Supreme Court that she receive \$18,000 as well as the \$18 weekly payment.

The judge said Mrs. Carroll, who lives with a daughter in Alton Avenue, Belmont, a Geelong suburb, had played a major role in her husband's success by helping him on his farm.

The husband, Owen William Carroll, 71, a farmer, of Newtown Common, near Geelong, died in February, 1971.

\$144,000

Mr. Justice Anderson said the husband, who had had two de facto relationships after 1943, sold most of his real estate in 1969 for \$144,000.

He left the bulk of his estate to his second de facto wife, Mrs. Anne Wakeling. The will provided that on Mrs. Wakeling's death the estate goes to his children.

The late Mr. Carroll fathered three children outside the marriage.

Mrs. Carroll, surrounded by five of her children, said after the decision, "I am quite relieved. It's been a battle all my life, especially until the children had grown up."

"But truly I can't say any more. I don't like to speak ill of the dead," Mr. Justice Anderson said after the decision.

Mrs. Carroll said she was left with a number of children on maintenance of \$3 a week. She reared the children in a modest way.

The judge said the maintenance was increased from time to time and ultimately reached \$18 a week in 1969, the last time she was in receipt of the social service pension, he said.

In his will, Mr. Carroll had bequeathed that the maintenance payment be continued.

Mr. Justice Anderson said the late husband "completely overlooked" his obligations to his wife by not allowing her to live without fear or anxiety.

At the decision, Mrs. Wakeling shook hands with Mrs. Carroll in the courtroom.



Mrs. Carroll gives a wave as she leaves the court after winning an extra \$18,000 from her husband's estate.



Mrs. Wakeling.

Sir George, 70, will remarry

The State Attorney-General (Sir George Reid) is to remarry.

Sir George, who will be 70 in July, today announced his engagement to Dorothy Rutledge, of Warrandyte.

Sir George is to retire from politics at the coming State elections. He has represented the seat of Box Hill since 1947.

Sir George's first wife, Beatrice, died last July.

It's vote day on abortion

CANBERRA. — A Federal Government Minister yesterday urged women supporting abortion on request to agitate against all politicians who opposed the private member's bill today.

The Minister for the Environment and Conservation (Dr. Cass) said the women's campaign should include A.L.P. members who refused to vote for the bill.

In a strong speech designed to whip up as much last minute support for the bill as possible, Dr. Cass told women outside Parliament House that some politicians had shown themselves "insensitive to women's demands on this issue."

"If you don't give these politicians utter hell between now and the next election — and I'm talking about men in my own party — if you can't exert a similar influence, then you don't deserve to get what you're after," Dr. Cass said.

The vote on the bill, sponsored by Victorian Labor backbencher Mr. David McKenzie and Mr. Tony Lamb, will be taken in the House of Representatives today after a debate lasting three and a half hours.

The bill provides for abortion on request in the Australian Capital Territory up to 12 weeks from conception and on medical and social grounds from 12 to 23 weeks.

The bill is certain to be thrown out. But an amendment, proposed by Mr. Matthews for a Royal Commission into Abortion in Australia, has a fair chance of being passed.

The amendment is expected to receive support from some Liberals, including former Prime Minister Mr. Gorton.

Continued - 3.

Canberra rejects

Taiwan Minister

From JOHN JOST

CANBERRA. — The Federal Government has refused to grant a visa for a visit to Australia by the Taiwan Finance Minister (Mr. K. T. Lee).

There was speculation in Canberra last night that the visit was vetoed by the People's Republic of China.

The Special Minister of State (Senator Willse) yesterday revealed that Mr. Lee had been refused a visa.

He told the Senate the Taiwan Minister was refused when it was revealed Mr. Lee was coming as an official of the Taiwan Government.

Senator Willse said it was originally believed that Mr. Lee was coming to Australia in an unofficial capacity.

The situation had changed following a question by the Deputy Leader of the Country Party (Mr. Sinclair) to the Prime Minister (Mr. Whitlam).

Mr. Whitlam had replied that Mr. Lee would be admitted if he came to Australia as a private individual.

Senator Willse said conversations took place with the People's Republic following Mr. Sinclair's question on May 7.

Officials in Peking are said to have contacted Australian representatives there when Mr. Lee's proposed visit became known.

At the same time, the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic in Canberra contacted the Foreign Affairs Department, which passed the message to Mr. Whitlam.

The representations, coupled with information said to have come from other sources, are said to be the main reasons why the Government decided Mr. Lee's visit was not a private one.

Last night, Mr. Sinclair said he was "mystified as to why the Prime Minister has changed his mind about Mr. Lee's status."

Mr. Sinclair said he was contacted by Mr. Lee last Wednesday about his proposed visit.

An approach was made by the Immigration Department for indication of the basis on which Mr. Lee would be admitted.

Mr. Sinclair said he had discussed the basis with the Foreign Affairs Department. An official had assured him that if Mr. Lee came in a private capacity, using an ordinary passport, and not a diplomatic or Government official one, "in the normal run he would be admitted."

Mr. Lee had wanted to attend a meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Forum, which is an economic body not a political one, Mr. Sinclair said.

Mr. Sinclair said Mr. Lee would have attended as a private individual.

But yesterday, he had received a cable from Mr. Lee saying that his application for a visa had been denied.

Mr. Sinclair said he had heard Mr. Lee's application had "been cleared through the Prime Minister's office, but Mr. Whitlam has changed his mind."

NEWS SUMMARY

Extreme pressures on two party leaders

The Premier, (Mr. Hamer), and the Leader of the Opposition, (Mr. Holding), are both under extreme pressure in this election campaign. IAN DAY explains why on page 9.

TRIDENT

All ABC staff will be called to meetings throughout Australia to discuss results of a national survey of morale in the ABC. —PAGE 2.

WARSHIPS

The Federal Government has been advised to go ahead with a \$65 million programme to provide new destroyers for the R.A.N. —PAGE 11.

PROFITS

The Federal Government plans to tax people on all profits made from the sale of property within 12 months of its purchase. —PAGE 3.

RATTEN

A petition for mercy by convicted murderer Leith McDonald Ratten — and new evidence — will be referred to the State Full Court. —PAGE 3.

H-PROTEST

The Leader of the Federal Opposition (Mr. Snedden) sends a protest letter to President Pompidou of France over the nuclear tests in the Pacific. —PAGE 4.

ODDSPOT

Researcher at Birmingham's Aston University have uncovered yet another side effect of contraceptive pills. They tend to give trouble to women who wear contact lenses. —PAGE 15.

TV-Radio lift-out guide

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WEATHER TODAY

VICTORIA: Becoming fine. A few showers on coast and ranges.
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