It has built a bus depot, engineering workshops, a high school, even railway tracks as the governor, Marcus Oliphant, discovered when his official inspection was stopped by a passing train.

The Institute of Architects has called for a statutory body to take control of the parkslands, administering them with a levy imposed on local government and phasing out car parkings and private use of the parkslands. But the Dunstan government, which will help itself to another slice from the northern parkslands when the freeway program gets underway, remains aloof.

**In Canberra's cold**

SUPPORT for the Aboriginal embassy opposite Federal Parliament House is now waning. Not only have numbers dwindled from somewhere around 20 earlier this year to six now but some Aborigines want to see the embassy closed. They seem to think it has achieved its purpose and isn't getting any more publicity anyway. The six embassy residents, huddled around oil heaters say they will last out the winter and soldier on beyond, leader or no leader, support or none.

Even someone as influential as Charles Perkins has suggested that the land-rights protesters should pack up and leave. One of the embassy staff, Brian Marshall, claims Perkins rang him and said some Aboriginal organisations thought the embassy should be closed on Black Moratorium Day. The loyalties of Marshall were divided. He solved his dilemma by leaving the embassy and walking to Adelaide. He has been sponsored on the walk by firms to a total of $10 a mile and says the money he raises will go toward establishing a permanent building for Aborigines in Canberra.

Meanwhile the government continues on its dilatory way working out a policy toward the embassy. The interior department has compiled an ordinance which will give it power to move the tent, after the government has changed its mind three times about the need for it. Now the ordinance has gone through the formalities of being presented to the ACT advisory council for discussion and interior minister Ralph Hunt has said publicly he will disregard the council's vote against it.

Only one thing remains before the ordinance takes effect, announcing it in the Commonwealth gazette. Interior does not explain why it has so far taken a month to gazette the ordinance.

**Far flung**

**BULLETIN** writer Daphne Guinness turned up in Addis Ababa at what seems to have been an important moment in Ethiopian-Australian relations. She writes:

"Not since the British Museum returned two of the 1000 manuscripts looted by the British expeditionary force in 1868 had Ethiopia received such a gift. Before former director of the Art Gallery of New South Wales Hal Missingham left Addis Ababa, his last call was on Dr Richard Pankhurst, son of suffragette Sylvia Pankhurst and director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies at the Haile Selassie university. The object: to present on behalf of the gallery 14 original paintings by the late Solomon Baledchew Yimam, the first of the Ethiopian modern painters and important to the university which till then, had none of his works.

Pankhurst said: "It is very rare and very unusual for works of art to be returned to their country of origin. When the two manuscripts came, that was after requests from two emperors to the British government and they wrote asking the British Museum, so it was more an order really." True, there was some soul-searching by the trustees of the gallery before they let the paintings go, but the original owner, former British intelligence army man George Sandwith, who lives in Canberra and is in the paintings by buying them in Ethiopia, wrote to the university: "Surely by now they can be said to have done their stuff in Australia? Perhaps the time is coming for them to return home where Solomon's work will be more properly understood."

"And so, after seven years of correspondence and much planning, Hal Missingham pulled it off. Richard Pankhurst does not see the beginning of world generosity, however. The British Museum still has 950 manuscripts and Italy still keeps in Rome the collection it looted from Axum in the 1935-36 war, even though the peace treaty said all antiquities would be returned. And now with the coming of tourism, to say nothing of the to-and-froing of diplomats, there is the perpetual head- ache of works of art and antiquities being sneakied out in luggage. "But how are we to search their bags all the time? It would not be nice to search their clothes and possessions for hidden treasures. It just would not be practicable."

"Seems when they do for bombs, knives, etc. — Ethiopia is one of the safest security-wise in the world of course, it is still possible to get away with it. What Hal Missingham most wanted to bring back to Australia was a good example of Coptic Ethiopian art. Faced with waiting six months for an export licence, what else would a determined man do but tuck the magnificent outsize brass cross that he bought in Addis Ababa deep down in his baggage and keep his own fingers crossed through the frisking. Wrote triumphant Missing ham: "They went through everything. But they've all right. I've got the cross." Which is news to the university. They knew nothing about it.

all their own work

I believe that the Liberals can still win the Federal election.

— Victorian Premier Harry Bette, on his retirement.

Torpedoed by a silly idiotic red herring.

— Chairman of the Australian Opera, Claudio Abbado, on the company's financial problems.

It is a pretty poor vote of thanks — and it is no vote of confidence when our efforts to take the next steps along the way are received by the wool industry in the way they have been.

— Country Party leader Doug Anthony on reactions to government's wool plan.

The Opera House should be a popular venue for lovers, a mecca for businessmen and a source of wonder for children.

— NSW Premier for Cultural matters, George Freeth, on the announcement.

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