

Alderman Forfeits His Seat

An alderman has automatically forfeited his seat on Willoughby Council because he has not attended the last four council meetings.

He is Alderman A. N. Hazard, who represents Northbridge Ward on the council.

The Town Clerk, Mr. H. Reid, said yesterday that Section 35 of the Local Government Act provided that if an alderman absented himself from four consecutive meetings without leave of absence he ceased to be a council member.

Alderman Hazard had been given a month's leave of absence but it had expired on March 11. Since then the council had held four meetings.

Mrs R. Stranger, of Point Piper, Mr Hazard's mother-in-law, said last night that Mr Hazard had had to attend to urgent company business in Melbourne and had applied for leave of absence.

Taronga Park Zoo's two-months-old lion cubs, Tessie and Bessie, receive a petting from Melbourne visitors Judy White, 17 (left), and Carol Wood, 16, yesterday. The cubs are among more than 150 animals that have been born at the Zoo so far this year.

Dutch "Could Not Stand Alone" In N.G. Invasion

From SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS and A.A.P.-REUTER HOLLANDIA, Wednesday. — The Dutch Secretary for Home Affairs, Dr T. H. Bot, said yesterday that if New Guinea was invaded by a force of more than 1,000 "we could not be expected to stand alone," according to American Associated Press.

Dr Bot was being questioned on a statement he was reported as making earlier, that Holland would expect military support from Australia, Britain and the United States if Indonesia invaded West New Guinea.

According to American Associated Press, Dr Bot said at the questioning: "How could I speak for those other countries?"

The news agency quoted Dr Bot as saying that Holland was prepared for trouble from Indonesia.

He added: "We don't expect any trouble right now. But if trouble came, you could not expect Holland to handle it alone, could you?"

Dr Bot is in Hollandia for the opening session of the West New Guinea Council.

The U.S. State Department in Washington would not comment on Dr Bot's reported statement that the Netherlands would expect military help from the United States.

A department spokesman said comment was never made on hypothetical cases. Australian officials in Canberra would not comment.

Position "Not Changed"

In Darwin tonight, the new Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, Brigadier-General Suadi Suromihardjo, said the new Council in Dutch New Guinea would not change the Indonesian position.

What was referred to as Dutch New Guinea was, in fact, part of Indonesia, he said.

It was not proper to talk of Indonesians as "infiltrating" because it was part of their country.

General Suadi said Indonesia had no intention of using force over the issue.

"However, if the Dutch resort to arms, that is a different matter," he said.

"We have to defend ourselves."

General Suadi, on his first visit to Australia, said he felt Australians understood the position in Dutch New Guinea and other problems facing his country.

Role In U.N. Suez Force

General Suadi, born in 1921, became a lieutenant-colonel when Indonesia became a republic.

During the 1956-57 Suez crisis, he commanded the Indonesian contingent in the U.N. force in Egypt.

He said tonight he understood there was some concern in Australia over reports that Indonesia was building up arms.

Indonesia was a country of great mixtures, and almost 100 million people, he said.

A large Army was necessary to preserve law and order—but as a country, Indonesia had no intention of aggression against anyone.

● Council opened — Page 6

"Members of the Legislative Assembly are called on every three years to answer to the electors, but not so the members of the Legislative Council.

"There has been and still is a lot of loose talk about members of the Government and the State Labour Party being lukewarm and not unanimous about carrying out abolition.

"Every Labour member of the Assembly and the Council, except for that tiny group of councillors who placed paltry prestige and self-interest before pledges and principle, have registered their desire to abolish the council by voting for the referendum."

Mr Heffron said Liberal M.L.A.s had at first voted for the Abolition Bill, then had changed direction.

Liberal Opinion Quoted

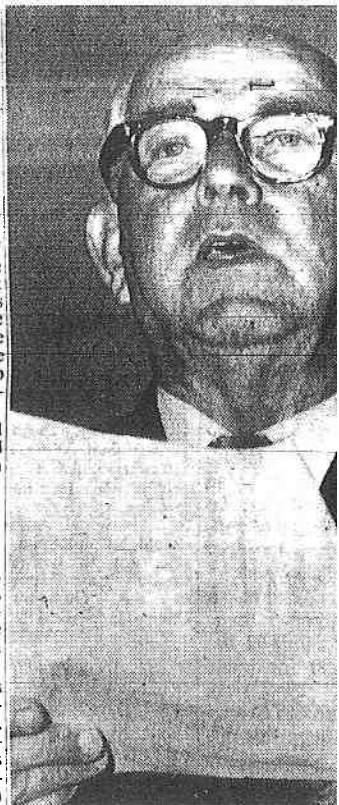
There was one exception, however—Mr Kevin Ellis, the Liberal M.L.A. for Coogee, who had described the Legislative Council as "a burlesque of democracy."

Only a short four years ago, the Liberal Party itself, in a research bulletin, had admitted that the Council had ceased to serve as a "check against the excesses of the party system or as a safeguard of democratic rights."

Ever since it came into existence, Labour had fought to abolish the Council, Mr Heffron said.

Yet all efforts in the past had been frustrated by supercilious, reactionary politicians and the strongly entrenched interests they served.

"They have thrown down fierce barrages of fear, conjured up all manner of frightening possibilities and painted fearsome pictures of a Labour-dominated Parliament running amok because of the absence of a



The Premier, Mr Heffron, delivered his speech last night.

house of review to hold it in restraint," Mr Heffron said.

"My answer to that is that every member of the Legislative Assembly is continually in the fierce white public glare, and must face the polls every three years.

"The people — not the Legislative Council — are the true watchdogs in politics, and so they should be.

"Few authorities anywhere in the world are organised on a bi-cameral

basis. The procedure is inefficient. Why State fashion scorned the business government the greater Speaking, Mr Downston designed the election system if it were abolished. He added Labour both Houses could have legislation situation is it will pass the second "The L was established express democracy

SEA SEARCH



Residents watch the search for Theo Hommen.

LITERARY PRIZE TO MOTHER OF FOUR

A mother of four children, Mrs Barbara McNamara, yesterday won the £500 Miles Franklin Award for 1960 for her novel, "The Irishman."

She wrote the novel under the pen-name of Elizabeth O'Conner, in her spare time on the north Queensland cattle station where she lives with her husband and family.

It is set in the early 1920s in the Gulf country of northern Australia and deals with an adolescent boy's growth to manhood.

"The Irishman" is Mrs McNamara's second novel. Her first, "Steak For Breakfast," was a best-seller.

Yesterday's award was the fourth made under the will of a noted Australian writer, Miss Miles Franklin, who died in 1954.

Chosen From Twenty-six Entries

The will provided for an annual prize for the best novel of the year presenting Australian life in any of its phases.

Previous winners were Patrick White (1957) for "Voss," Randolph Stow (1958) for "To The Islands" and Vance Palmer (1959) for "The Big Fellow."

Mrs McNamara was told

of her success by telephone last Friday and flew to Sydney on Tuesday.

She received the cheque at a ceremony yesterday in the Rural Bank building. The Chief Justice of N.S.W., the Hon. H. V. Ewart, made the presentation on behalf of the Permanent Trustee Company of New South Wales.

From Literary Family

The five judges were: Dr Colin Roderick, a director of Angus and Robertson Ltd; Miss Beatrice Davis, literary editor of that company; Mr Gordon Richardson, librarian of the Mitchell Library; Mr George Williams, a company director, and Mr Ian Mudie, a poet.

They chose "The Irishman" unanimously from 26 entries, including Thea Astley's "A Descant for Gossips," Jon Cleary's "North From Thursday," and Guthrie Wilson's "The Incorruptibles."

They said that though there was no strikingly brilliant work, the entries

showed a high degree of competence.

Most of the authors dealt with the outback, aborigines or early Australia, but there were several sophisticated and satisfying urban novels, notably "The Incorruptibles."

The judges described Mrs McNamara's novel as perceptive and mature.

Mrs McNamara lives on an 800-square-mile property, "Lyndhurst," about 300 miles west of Cairns.

Her husband manages the property. Their two sons, aged 8 and 18, live there and their two daughters, aged 13 and 16, attend school in Brisbane.

Mrs McNamara is from a literary family. Her father is novelist Eric Lowe and her mother is a short-story writer.

She said yesterday that she wrote "The Irishman" over an 18-month to two-year period.

She did a rough draft in longhand and then revised it on a typewriter. She is now working on another novel.

● Picture, Page 3.

Test Of

Of De

"You c

second c

world whi

of the L

over the p

"Even th

has no pe

"If this

carried on

soul of de

will be sh

The M

Governme

the Lord

H. F. Jen

tary of th

Council, I

spoke.

The A.I

suggestion

nist Party

paign in

Council re

The Sta

A.L.P.,

Mourne, s

the A.I.P.

own liter

its own r

out a can

independ

party.