

Opera House trio named

SYDNEY. — The panel of architects selected by the NSW Government to complete the Opera House would be "pilloried" by the architectural profession, Mr. R. A. Gilling said last night.

Mr. Gilling, who is president of the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, said this would happen unless the Minister for Public Works (Mr. Hughes) made public his reasons for not employing Mr Joern Utzon as sole architect in charge of the project.

Mr. Hughes yesterday announced the composition of the panel to work under the Government architect (Mr. E. H. Farmer).

The panel is Rudder, Littlemore and Rudder Pty. Ltd., represented by Mr. D. S. Littlemore; Hanson, Todd and Partners, represented by Mr. L. Todd; and Mr. Peter Hall, a design architect in the Government architect's branch of the Public Works department.

Mr. Utzon, designer of the Opera House, resigned from the job at the end of February after a dispute with Mr. Hughes.

Reasons vital

Mr. Gilling said the panel would be unable to act with a clear conscience until Mr. Hughes's reasons were brought to light.

"I consider Mr. Hughes should make a public statement giving his reasons for not accepting Mr. Utzon as sole architect in charge," he said.

"For Mr. Utzon's resignation to be simply confirmed by the Government is not enough for the profession to accept without question.

"Unless Mr. Hughes makes known his reasons the panel selected will be pilloried by the profession."

Architect Mr. Harry Seidler last night launched a bitter attack on the Government's appointment of the panel.

He trenchantly criticised the members of the panel.

Mr. Seidler said he was "appalled" at the Government's decision. It would earn Australia the cultural contempt of the world.

"A great body of opinion from world-famous architects has been pouring in, begging the Government not to continue the Opera House without Mr. Utzon," Mr. Seidler said.

"One can only be amazed that the Government has taken the attitude that it knows better than the architectural opinion of the world," he said.

First task

The panel's first task will be to make a smooth transition between stages two (the shell roof) and three (the interior panelling, fittings and acoustics).

Mr. P. Hall will be responsible for design, Mr. L. Todd for contract documents and Mr. D. Littlemore for supervision.

However, in all matters of design, supervision and administration, Mr. Farmer will be the senior partner.

Asked whether he thought the panel would reduce costs, Mr. Hughes said he had never accepted the \$50 million estimate which had been made without the benefit of plans, specifications and tenders.

"It might be found that the total cost of the building will be less," he added.

Mr. Hughes said he did not think the panel would translate the ideas of one man into actual practice. But this did not mean that the building would be less perfect.

"I have confidence these men will use their ideas and initiative to produce a first-rate opera house," Mr. Hughes went on.

Mr. Hughes said he had received Mr. Utzon's final claim.

Asked if it had reached \$1 million, as had previously been anticipated, he replied: "No." The Minister would not say what amount Mr. Utzon had claimed.