

No PR firm at Opera House

House

SIR—Who are the public relations experts employed by the Minister for Public Works in the Opera House dispute, referred to publicly by many architects including your correspondent, Mr Darrell Wardle (*The Australian*, April 4)?

I am told that Eric White Associates are nominated among architects as the people involved.

As a director of that organisation I am perplexed. Eric White Associates has had no part in the dispute. Further, I see no evidence of a professional public relations campaign.

The story must have been put around by the supporters of Mr Utzon who either know it is incorrect or don't know whether it is incorrect or not. It is therefore either dishonest or irresponsible.

Personally, I would like to hope that a formula can still emerge to enable Mr Utzon to finish the Sydney Opera House. I wonder if a prerequisite is that

he should be protected from some of his friends. — **HAL MYERS**, Shadforth Street, Mosman, NSW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Neither the NSW Minister for Public Works, Mr Davis Hughes, nor his department retains the services of a public relations firm.

Challenge to the minister

ONE CANNOT allow the remarks of the NSW Minister of Public Works to pass unchallenged.

In addressing a Country Party meeting at Mandurama, NSW, on April 5, the minister stated that no design plans or specifications had been produced for the interiors or approaches to the Sydney Opera House.

As a former employee of Joern Utzon, and one who is removed from the political aspects of this situation (I am

an alien), I may say only that I have seen complete drawings for the interiors of both halls, and for the experimental theatre and chamber music room as well.

Specifications and working drawings have been in preparation, and design drawings are complete, down to the last armchair in the Opera House director's office.

As for the surrounds, the minister will recall having seen his department's files which contain Utzon's final scheme for the approaches and foreshores to the Opera House—a scheme prepared over two years ago.

It is a scheme magnificent in its simplicity and breadth of view, a scheme which would realise, at last, the potential beauty of lower Sydney—and, one might add, at very small cost.

Please, Mr Minister, people of Sydney, do not settle for anything less than the devotion, honesty and genius of Joern Utzon in this wonderful building which you so generously share with the people of the world.—**DONALD BERGOMI**, Darling Point Road, Darling Point, NSW.