

AN ACCOUNT FROM UTZON

Davis Hughes, the New South Wales Minister of Public Works, announced the personnel of the panel he had appointed to replace Joern Utzon. Three men will work under the chairmanship of the Government architect, E. H. Farmer: Lionel Todd, age 36, of Hanson, Todd & Partners, will be in charge of contract documents. D.S. Littlemore, 55, of Rudder, Littlemore & Rudder, will be in charge of supervision. And in charge of design will be Peter Hall, 34, a chief designer in Mr. Farmer's department until his recent resignation to set up in private practice. Peter Hall has earned an outstanding reputation for a young architect but he has not exactly proved himself to be a second Utzon, nor suggested in his work that he had any desire to be one.

R.A.I.A. President (N.S.W. Chapter) Ron A. Gilling commented immediately that the panel "would be pilloried by the architectural profession" unless Hughes made public the full reasons for Utzon's withdrawal. Harry Seidler, who had become tactical commander of the Utzon supporters, said: "One can only be amazed that the Government has taken the attitude that it knows better than the architectural opinion of the world."

From Paris, the secretary of the International Union of Architects, Pierre Vago, wrote not to the R.A.I.A. but to the N.S.W. Government requesting information so that "an objective dossier" may be presented to the I.U.A. congress in Stuttgart in May.

Meanwhile Joern Utzon rendered his final professional account. It was for about \$500,000--some for work done on Stage 2, the main building contract now nearing completion, and some for Stage 3, the interior acoustical structures and fittings, which are by no means fully designed yet. The bill was not accompanied by any of the drawings done so far in development of Stage 3. While the new panel was reported to be "familiarising itself" with the project, it could not get far without Utzon's drawings. Davis Hughes, the man who was responsible for Utzon's leaving, now complained that Utzon should hand over his drawings because of "his natural interest in having the project finished as closely as possible to his concept." Besides, Hughes explained, it was not practicable for the Government to determine, without seeing the drawings, what fees Utzon should get. But Joern Utzon's lawyers were holding the drawings until the bill was paid.