

## KENNEL KAPERS — IN — KANGAROO LAND

Hello again.

Canberra, the Australian national capital, is behind me now, and Jean has forgiven me for enjoying a week of bachelorhood. It sure seems good to get back to home cooking, though; the sweet young thing had baked two lemon pies and a cake for a homecoming present. Boy, they sure tasted good with all those Pepsis I brought her as a present from Canberra.

The highlight of our trip (other than getting back home, that is) was a visit to Parliament House in Canberra. One of the leaders in the Australian House of Representatives is Mr. Bill Haworth, a Rotarian at South Melbourne (the Rotary Club I am assigned to.) He was away at an international conference in Poland while we were in Canberra, however; so he gave us an introduction to another member of Parliament, Mr. Phil Lucock.

Nowhere in Australia have I been treated so wonderfully as Mr. Lucock hosted us that day. He arranged reserved seats for us to hear the House debates in the morning, and in the afternoon we sat on the floor of the Senate for their debates.

Between the two sessions he treated us to lunch and morning tea in the Parliamentary (corresponds roughly to Congressional) dining room. Sandwiched between all this he introduced us to many

of the national big-wigs. We were greatly impressed by having the chance to only temporarily rub shoulders with some of Australia's political leaders. We met the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, the Senate majority leader, the organizer of the 1956 Olympic Games, the American consulate, and many others of lesser importance. But I was even more impressed by the genuine consideration that each person we met gave to us.

Mr. Wentworth, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, asked me several questions about certain atomic developments in the United States, and did I feel dumb! The questions he asked would have made good subjects for a doctorate thesis. After a while we narrowed down to a good discussion on one of my subjects—the generally false fears of people who blame nuclear tests for everything from earthquakes to snagged women's hose.

Somewhere during the day a photographer appeared and took a picture on the capitol steps of Mr. Lucock and us, and it appeared the next day on the front page of the Canberra Times. Needless to say, we all felt very honored. Among the two fellows I was traveling with and myself I think we almost doubled the circulation of the newspaper the next morning by buying seven copies of the paper.

Late in the afternoon we went around to the American Embassy where we talked for over an hour with the American Consul, Mr. Bob Hoey. It turned out that Mr. Hoey was a third cousin and close friend of former Senator Clyde Hoey of North Carolina. The difference is that Mr. Bob Hoey pronounces his name like "Hoy." It's just as well for him because his name the way we pronounce it has a meaning in Australia which could be very embarrassing.

The guard at the door of the American Embassy was a marine who had served at Camp Lejeune. All he said was that he didn't particularly care to return there, so I didn't push the question any further. I sympathized somewhat.

In our talk with Mr. Hoey I learned a great deal about America's foreign service and some of the little problems which arise which we at home would never think about. I also found that Mr. Hoey doesn't think that the book *THE UGLY AMERICAN* gives a true account of our overseas service. He gave us a very informative and amusing pamphlet entitled *HOW NOT TO MAKE A MOVIE*

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rude, but I understand that this behavior is quite accepted in Parliamentary debates. Other than this the whole law-making system is much like our Congress.

Parliament is divided into two bodies, a House and Senate. There are approximately 100 members in the House representing population distribution. The Senate has 60 members, 10 from each of the six states in Australia.

The two main political bodies are the Liberal (although the party is very conservative) Party and the Labor Party, having about the same political philosophies as their counterparts in England, although the government is probably more friendly toward America through thick and thin than Britain has been.

Altogether the day we spent at Parliament House, Canberra, was definitely the most informative and inspiring day I've had in Australia. Before the day was up I was giving serious thought to running for political office someday myself—not that this was the first time I had thought about it. But the dog-eared joke would be thrown at me, probably by Jean, that all I could suitably run for would be dog-catcher.

You know, I'm dying to watch a good game of American football! Is that a form of homesickness?

Until next time,  
Cheerio!  
Robbie

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### OUT OF 'THE UGLY AMERICAN'

Some of the debates we heard in Parliament during the day were highly interesting. The opposition party, in this case the Labor Party, has seats in a group on the left of the Assembly Hall, and they just shout out while the others are speaking. Somehow this seems a bit

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