

amazing feat of political persuasion, he convinced the independent but conservative Upper House to extend the life of his Government from three to five years in the interest of stability.

It was a promising start.

grand old man of the party, Roy Fagan, 63, had had enough. He retired. On the same day, Dr Allan Foster, Minister for Health, retired because of ill health. In August, leading backbencher and Hobart chemist Mr Kevin

TASMAN BRIDGE . . . keeping Tasmania v

Corby retired for personal reasons.

With Eric Reece in charge, the Government stayed more or less together, not doing

much but not getting into trouble.

But Senator Everett had not forgotten that Mr Reece had forced him out of State poli-

## PERSPECTIVE

### Ethnic sex is out

RADIO 2EA (Ethnic Australia) erupted in violent controversy yesterday in Sydney — with chairman Jim Bayutti asking Al Grassby and announcer Franca Arena to leave all future statements to him. "I will not allow everybody to jump into the act," he declared.

Sex triggered the explosion. Mrs Arena told Bruce Stannard of *The Australian* during Monday's opening celebrations that Italian husbands tend to ignore their wives' problems "so long as their wives are good in bed. They don't realise half of them are suffering from severe mental breakdowns and chronic nervous complaints," she added.

Mr Bayutti reached for the phone when he read it — and ordered Mrs Arena not to make further statements. He is chairman of Radio 2EA and licensee of 2EA Sydney and 3EA Melbourne. And he also fired off a telegram to Mr Grassby, the Australian Gov-

ernment's special consultant on community relations. This also reaffirmed his role as sole spokesman for the station.

Mr Grassby's attempts at various European languages have amused many listeners — especially his "Riverina-Calabrian" accent — but not, apparently, Mr Bayutti. Mrs Arena, a "liberated" Italian, is a Grassby appointee for the bold experiment.

"We have received about 30 bloody telegrams from Italian men and women saying that Italian women are not frustrated at all," said Mr Bayutti.

"I told Franca this morning: 'Franca, you can't do that.' And I told Mr Grassby that every statement should be made by me, with the OK of the committee."

It wasn't "a hot telegram," he said, and he denied that he was upset. Franca, "poor soul," had unwittingly aroused some hot-blooded people, and he had told her that she had no right to make statements which might jeopardise the experiment.

His role was made clear at a meeting on June 4, he said, and he wanted it to be "very clear that there should be no politics, no controversy under

the terms of reference." "I don't want the UN to be involved in this," he said. "I want to keep this running as a business operation, and I want us to do the experiment in a nice way."

"If we deviate from the terms of reference we damage the whole project. I don't want my name in the paper, but I can't allow people to jump into the act and damage the thing."

Apart from that, he said, the response from "little people in the street has been colossal."

### Ari-ed beyond the grave

JACKIE ONASSIS might star as herself in the \$5 million film about her late shipping tycoon husband, Aristotle Onassis — she is "considering the offer." The offer could be one million dollars — the highest-ever for a first role.

That's the latest in the Onassis serial, reports John Murche from our London Greek-island-spotting tower. Greek film producer Nico

Mastrakis has made the offer, he says — with Julie Christie as second choice if Jackie won't play.

Jackie tried for three months to find legal grounds to contest her husband's will, an Onassis associate reports from Athens — so there is a chance that the role may tempt her. She sent lawyers to Athens to find a way to contest the will in court, but they failed.

Anthony Quinn has already agreed to play Onassis in the film, titled *Tycoon*, scheduled to begin shooting later this year — with scenes on the Onassis yacht *Christina* and in his offices in the south of France.

Mastrakis says that the Onassis family is in full agreement with the whole scheme: "They don't mind showing Onassis, warts and all, provided it is a fair portrayal." He has raised most of the budget for the film from a Swiss woman financier, Ginot Grenet.

It will be a sensation if Jackie does appear, of course — and intriguing to hear that little-girl-Marilyn-Monroe delivery of hers again . . .