



IN FEBRUARY 1966, Australia will switch over to decimal currency from its present English-style system of pounds, shillings and pence. The changeover will bring Australia into line with most other countries in the world.

Australia Switching To Decimal Coinage System in February '66

By ROBERT COLEMAN
MELBOURNE (CP)—D (for Decimal) Day is coming up for Australians in February, 1966. When it comes, the nation will switch over to decimal currency from its present English-style system of pounds, shillings and pence. The changeover will bring Australia into line with most other countries in the world. It will be ahead of Britain and New Zealand, both planning similar switches. Although Australia still uses the pounds, shillings and pence of its mother country, it is not on parity with the British sterling pound. The Australian pound has a lower value and is worth about \$2.40 in Canadian dollars. In the present system there are 12 pennies (pence) to the shilling and 20 shillings to the pound. For convenience in the changeover the new Australian dollar will be the equivalent of 10 shillings (two dollars to the pound).

These are the final designs in plaster models which will be used in making of the coin dies. They may undergo minor technical modifications. The designs, for the reverse side, are from left: 20-cent piece with a platypus; a 10-cent piece with a lyrebird; a 5-cent piece with an Echidna (or spiny ante-eater); a 2-cent piece with a frilled-necked lizard; and a 1-cent piece with a feather-tailed glider.

It is bound to bring some price increases—and this will be true. **MENTING BEGUN**—Some of the coins are already being minted. There is some doubt whether the notes will be ready in time, and it is possible notes of current design expressed in dollars may be used. The first name chosen by the federal cabinet for the main unit of decimal currency was "royal." This followed a request by the government for suggestions which drew such ideas as "Austral," "Quid" (in i k a m e for the pound), "Roo," "Deener" (nick-name for the shilling), "Emu," "Kelly" (after Ned Kelly, legendary Australian outlaw) and many other absurdities. Many, of course, suggested "dollar," but the government wanted something different.

The public generally has accepted the principle well, though there are bound to be some initial grumbles. Most people realize the advantages to be gained from the decimal system, but some have pointed out expected in the early days of the changeover. At first there will be a shake-up down period with both currencies being legal tender. The conversion will cost millions—office machinery, such as cash registers, accounting machines and typewriters will have to be converted. So will vending machines. The conversion will cost millions—office machinery, such as cash registers, accounting machines and typewriters will have to be converted. So will vending machines. The conversion will cost millions—office machinery, such as cash registers, accounting machines and typewriters will have to be converted. So will vending machines.

U.S. Britain To Withdraw Four Attaches From Russia

By SIDNEY WEILAND
MOSCOW (Reuters)—The United States and Britain have decided to withdraw four military attaches, three Americans and a Briton, from diplomatic service in Moscow, it was announced here. The Russians accused the four of spying on a trans-Siberian train trip last fall. The reason given for the withdrawal of the four was the Russians in rejecting their applications for new travel permits outside Moscow, might as well have declared them persona non grata (unwelcome).

(State department sources in Washington said the United States had asked for the withdrawal of three Soviet embassy military attaches there. George Thomson, minister of state for foreign affairs, told the House of Commons in London the Russians have been asked to withdraw a naval attaché from the Russian Embassy in London.) The four Western attaches are Col. George A. Aubrey of Annapolis, Md., the army attaché at the U.S. Embassy; Lt. Col. Karl R. Liever of Oxnard, Neb., the assistant army attaché; Maj. James A. F. Smith of Meera, Okla., the assistant air attaché, and Lt. Cmdr. Nigel Laville, assistant air attaché at the British Embassy. Some critics of the new coins deplored replacement of the obverse Latin legend "Elizabeth II Dei Gratia Regina F.D." with the straight-forward "Elizabeth II - Australia" and the date. Some church leaders complained about omission of "F.D." (Defender of the Faith.)

PO Spying To Be Eased

OTTAWA (CP)—Postmaster-General Nicholson, under pressure from employees associations, is closing down the controversial washroom observation galleries that were installed in post offices to catch mail thieves. Mr. Nicholson said in an announcement that the galleries are being closed for "an indefinite period." Galleries in other parts of post offices will continue to be used.

The postmaster-general said washrooms provide "dishonest" employees with the means to 15 years ago. A post office department spokesman said there were several kinds of observation galleries in use, such as one-way glass or venetian blind-type slats that could be used by an investigator from a darkened area. LATE MAIL. HULL, England (CP)—A storekeeper in this Yorkshire town has received a birthday card mailed in Sydney, N.S.W., Australia, dated July 23, 1926. The person to whom it was addressed died 15 years ago. The four attaches continued their journey to Tokyo, but returned to Moscow Oct. 6 by way of Hong Kong and New Delhi. U.S. Ambassador Foy D. Kohler said at the time "as far as we are concerned, these attaches have returned on schedule to their normal duties and will be back at work." The last month diplomatic sources in Moscow said the four men had made new applications for travel outside the 23-mile radius around Moscow, within which diplomats may move without official permission.

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