

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

**NAME OF COLLECTION:** CARR, KENNETH FRANCIS (KEN)

**ACCESSION NO:** 103/106

**CATEGORY:** Labour, Individuals  
**ACTIVITY:**

**DATE RANGE:** 1965-1981 [mainly 1965-1976]

**SIZE OF COLLECTION:** One oversized volume

**DATE OF TRANSFER:** 2 October 2003

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:** Open

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Ken Carr was State Secretary of the Federated Furnishing Trades Society, Victorian Branch 1969-1984 and Federal Secretary 1970-1984. He also worked for an international union organisation and was Secretary of the Sunraysia Trades and Labor Council 1996-2002. He was awarded a Centenary of Federation medal in 2003. During the "Trades Hall split" he was spokesperson for the "rebel unions" as Secretary of the Trades Hall Administrative and Financial Review Committee. The rebel unions broke away from the Victorian Trades Hall Council in 1967 over union representation on the Council and increased affiliation fees. The dispute continued until 1973 and the rebel unions instigated a broadening of union involvement in non-industrial political and environmental issues during this period. These included the first Green Bans and union support of the anti Vietnam War movement. Ken Carr was a leader of the Vietnam Moratoriums. The split was also related to factionalism within the Australian Labor Party.  
Further reference: Plowman, David: "The Victorian Trades Hall split 1967-1973" in *Labour History* No. 36, May 1979

**DESCRIPTION:** Original newspaper clippings glued into a large volume. The clippings are in chronological order and were compiled by Ken Carr as a record of the activities of Victorian unions and his involvement in the "split".

**NOTE ON LISTING:** A chronological summary prepared by Helen Henders, Sunraysia Institute of TAFE, was received with the volume.

**LISTED BY:** Helen Henders; Sarah Brown  
**DATE:** 13 November 2003

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**Unit 1****Brief chronology of clippings in archive:****1965 - 1976****1965**

Marches in protest against wage judgments.

**1968**

Row over fees between THC and 27 suspended unions.

**1969**

The fining of trade union leader Clarence O'Shea for contempt of the Commonwealth Industrial Court

Strikes as a result of the imprisonment of Clarence O'Shea

Fights between THC and 27 rebel unions suspended from the THC

Carr is administrative secretary and spokesperson for the rebel union committee

O'Shea is freed

Carr publicly announces unions decisions and advocates struggle or political action from workers

The rebel unions threaten strikes in their campaign for the repeal of penal clauses of the Commonwealth Arbitration Act.

**1970**

The ACTU president Bob Hawke is asked to intervene in the Trades Hall dispute

Unionists, housewives and pensioners rally to get prices down

Carr denies reports that he is ready, willing and able to split the Labour Party in Victoria

Development projects are black-listed and 'black bans' by the rebel unions take in most of the building trade unions

Police break up a demonstration against law and order legislation at Parliament House

The gulf between the THC and the rebel unions widens as the left-wing unions increasingly use industrial action over social issues, especially with green bans (world's first) and the Vietnam Moratorium

*The Age* and other Melbourne newspapers criticise Mr Carr for using workers' power in direct action to achieve objectives

<b>Box No</b>	<b>Series No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
		other than wages and working conditions.	
Unit 1 cont.	<b>1971</b>	Trouble over the THC continuing to recognize rebel unions which have not paid their council affiliation fees	
		Federal Secretary of the Builder's Laborer's federation Norm Gallagher is imprisoned for 14 days for assault	
		Four Victorian rebel unions with a membership of more than 20,000 carry out a stoppage for 24 hours to protest against the imprisonment of Gallagher	
		The rebel unions are one of the most militant and successful union groups in Victoria with a boom economy plus a far more sympathetic ACTU with the advent of Bob Hawke	
		THC decides to end fight with 'rebel' unions	
		Unions continue to be involved in demonstrations at sport, with students, social services and prices	
		The rebel unions split over the issue of their return to the THC.	
	<b>1972</b>	The rebel unions continue bans relating to development, the environment and an ethane pipeline across Port Phillip Bay	
		Further attempts to mend the split between the THC and the rebel unions.	
	<b>1973</b>	Unions are active over price increases on food.	
	<b>1974</b>	The Australian Conservation foundation asks trade unions to help in recruiting	
		The Furnishing Trades Society puts a black ban on the assembly of furniture imported from South-east Asia	
		Black bans continue in relation to imports and safety issues.	
	<b>1976</b>	Ken Carr seeks ALP pre-selection for the Doutta Galla province	

Box No	Series No	Description	Dates
		Unit 1 cont.	
		The Victorian government passes legislation relating to union bans on vital State projects for political reasons	
		The Furnishing Trades Society is involved in green bans over Fraser Island. The glazier members refuse to work on building being constructed by mining company's associate company. The first ever 'green' log of claims is in the Industrial Relations Commission	
		The Furnishing Trades Society is also involved in the Prices Justification Tribunal enquiry on butter Trades Society is also involved in the Prices Justification Tribunal enquiry on butter.	
		<b>LIST ENDS</b>	

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