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CANBERRA

Heinz was 35 years old when he took up his appointment at Canberra University College on 1 January 1951, the fiftieth anniversary of Australian Federation. In the national capital, it was a day of special significance and celebration. Canberra then had a population approaching 20,000. The war had initiated a new spurt of growth, after the stagnation experienced during the depression years. As Australia's political nerve centre during the conflict, Canberra had become the true capital of the nation. After the war, with a Prime Minister (Chifley) and Cabinet dedicated to centralisation, Canberra's expansion was expected to continue rapidly. Anxiety arose with the election in December 1949 of Menzies' Coalition, dedicated to a federal system rather than a centralised one, and committed to smaller government. As it turned out, the new Prime Minister was Canberra's greatest champion. The city grew at unprecedented rates during his tenure and that of his immediate successors.

In 1951, the only buildings in the Civic Centre of Canberra were the two colonnaded blocks (the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings), the Civic Hotel, the Soldiers and Citizens Club, and the old weatherboard Census Building and police station. CUC occupied part of the Melbourne Building above the Trans Australian Airlines office and the Bureau of Mineral Resources. Its accommodation consisted of a small number of passageways with offices on each side, a staff common room and two larger rooms, one containing the library and the other serving as a lecture theatre. There were about 10 full-time staff, of whom five were professors: Joe Burton, Manning Clark, Fin Crisp, Alec Hope and Heinz. The students numbered about 600, all of them part-timers. The first full-time students were not enrolled until 1954.

In the early hours of Easter Sunday 1953, a fire broke out in parts of the Melbourne Building occupied by the college, destroying most of the libraries owned by Hope and the Professor of Law, John Fleming. Fortunately for Heinz there was no significant damage to his office, though his secretary, Margaret Easton, suffered some loss of possessions, for which she received compensation from the insurers. As a result of the fire, the college had to move into what at the time were considered to be temporary quarters, the disused workers' hostel in Childers Street. In reality, the college

stayed there until the Hayden-Allen Building was completed in 1960; the economics and law faculties remained at Childers Street until the Copland Building was finished in 1966. By then, Bruce Hall, the first residential accommodation built for undergraduate students, had been completed and various other buildings had been constructed for departments in the Faculty of Science.

When Heinz arrived in Canberra, the shortage of housing was acute, just as many of his friends had predicted it would be. Before securing a house, Heinz lived for several weeks at the Hotel Kurrajong, while Ruth and the children remained in Sydney. Staying at the Kurrajong was a bonus for Heinz, because Chifley, by this time Leader of the Opposition, lived there and Heinz got to know him well. The Kurrajong was one of a number of government hostels catering to single people and married couples without children. Most Canberra families lived in houses located in the half-dozen suburbs grouped around Civic Centre to the north of the Molonglo River, and around Parliament House and the government buildings south of the river.

In February, Heinz acquired the lease of one of the 'Tocumwal' houses in north Ainslie, then considered to be on the northern fringes of the city (it was sometimes referred to as 'South Yass'), though it is now an inner suburb of Canberra. These houses had been constructed during the war in the southern NSW town of Tocumwal, as quarters for RAAF aircrew undergoing operational training on B-24 Liberator heavy bombers. After the war, the houses were brought to Canberra in an effort to ease the housing shortage. Their foundations were made of brick, the walls of fibro and weatherboard and the roofs of corrugated iron.

The interior of the house that the Arndts acquired (at 6 Lang Street, Ainslie) was in a state of disrepair and required extensive repainting. Shortly after they moved in, they applied to have an electric stove installed, as well as water heaters in the kitchen and bathroom. Delays occurred, because of the excessive load on transformer capacity at the time in Canberra. At first, there were no electrical appliances at all: the Arndts needed to use firewood to heat the copper in the laundry, the stove in the kitchen, the fireplace in the lounge and the chip heater in the bathroom. The house was rather large, easily big enough for a family of three children, and was cool, with wide verandahs. In the large backyard, Ruth and Heinz quickly planted a vegetable garden. Since there were no footpaths, the surrounds of the house often became a quagmire after rainstorms.

Until Heinz purchased a car, the family depended on the home delivery of services. As well as milk, bread and ice deliveries, J.B. Young's, a local department store, later taken over by Myer, collected grocery orders and delivered them the next day. Greek, and later Italian, greengrocers delivered fruit and vegetables. The Arndts had the first telephone in Ainslie and owned the first car in their street. The telephone and the car were used frequently by neighbours requiring a doctor or an ambulance.

The children went to the North Ainslie preschool and primary school. Heinz and Ruth often attended concerts in the Albert Hall and plays performed by the Canberra Repertory Society. They also attended social functions at the CUC, but more frequently they entertained in their own home or attended parties at the homes of colleagues and neighbours. They were to live at Lang Street until 1956.

In their early years in Canberra, Heinz and Ruth wrote frequently to friends about the pluses and minuses of the city; however, neither of them regretted the move from Sydney. Within six months of their arrival in Canberra, Heinz wrote to a former colleague in Sydney

On the domestic front everything is going well. We managed to get the house into sufficient shape a fortnight ago and to have an enormous housewarming party with 30 people treading on each other's toes in our combined sitting and dining rooms. The children are flourishing. They have found two neighbours' children with whom they play happily and far more satisfactorily than with the respectable neighbours at Chatswood, and beyond a further deterioration in Christopher's accent, the evil influences of our 'poor locality' have not so far been in evidence.

At the same time, he wrote to his colleague Burge Cameron, then undertaking doctoral studies in Cambridge, to say that they were 'finding Canberra a very pleasant place to live in. An economist, in particular, would get as much intellectual stimulus and knowledge of at least one angle on Australia here as in Sydney or Melbourne.' In an earlier letter he had sent to Cameron, Heinz had said that he was 'well pleased with my new academic environment', though he added that he was 'pretty appalled at

the quality of our students'. Of the 48 students he had taught, 'about 5 are fairly good, another ten might just pass and the rest should not be wasting their time at university'.

To Tommy Balogh in Oxford, Heinz wrote that 'after a term's experience, [it] seems to have been a very wise step'. After a year in Canberra, he informed Professor Frank Mauldon, at the University of Western Australia, that '[w]e have thoroughly enjoyed our first year in Canberra, and I, my first year in the College. A short holiday trip to Sydney, from which we have just returned, has not caused us to revise our judgment that the move from Sydney to Canberra was a sound one, even though we enjoyed the Sydney beaches and meeting our Sydney friends.'

In August 1951, Heinz expressed his preliminary views ('these are very superficial impressions which I am foolish to commit to paper') about Canberra in an article for the magazine *Highway*. His major theme was that Canberra was 'very new and, for all its expanse, a very small place'. It was, he wrote, a place where one could live scarcely four miles from the city centre in a house that bordered the bush; where the circulation of local gossip was exhausted after 48 hours; where the local newspaper had a few days earlier published correspondence from 'two not very old gentlemen disputing each other's claim to have been the first to suggest this site for the city'; and where an 'American magazine editor recently made the pardonable mistake of selecting a photograph of the centre of Canberra to illustrate Australia's wide open spaces'.

Other characteristic features of Canberra to which Heinz drew attention were its planned nature and the fact that it was run by the Commonwealth Government through the Department of the Interior. It might be thought by some that the dead hand of government would be the subject of common debate and ridicule among Canberra's citizens, but Heinz was inclined to take a contrary view, contending that '[b]y almost general consensus, the worst feature of this socialist city is its private enterprises, though there are a few notable exceptions to the general tendency towards inefficiency and exploitation'. What surprised him most was how remote the average Canberra citizen was from politics, parliament and government, even though the 'good-looking white elephant [Parliament House] is visible from almost every corner'.

What did not surprise him was the vigorous social and intellectual life of the city. While it had no more cinemas or halls for dances and concerts than other cities of 20,000 people, and no nightclubs and virtually no restaurants

Canberra people do not seem to miss these facilities unduly, because, thrown on their own resources, they have managed to organise for themselves an almost incredible number of societies and clubs for the cultivation of almost every conceivable interest: not only sport of every kind, but music, repertory, dancing, languages, chess, philately, politics and good causes of every description. This almost embarrassing profusion of social and cultural activity is the product, and satisfies the needs, of an abnormally large proportion of well-educated people.

Indeed, he thought that Canberra had more university graduates among its population than almost any other city in the world, though not perhaps as many as Oxford or Cambridge.

Of his colleagues at the CUC, Heinz wrote to Kingsley Laffer in the middle of 1951, referring to them as 'hardworking, peace-loving, and respectable people who do not lay themselves open to scandal and I am as yet too much outside the hallowed circle to be told any of the no doubt ample and juicy scandals which are said to abound in the higher reaches of the Civil Service'.

Ruth was able to use her skills and experience as a social worker to teach English to European migrants, mostly to women, but occasionally to men as well. State governments funded the teaching of English to these migrants; in Canberra, the classes were organised by the Education Department of Sydney University. Ruth at first held classes in her home; after 1960, migrant teaching became more formalised and teaching at home was no longer permitted. In the early years, she walked around the neighbourhood encouraging so-called 'new Australians' to attend her classes. Soon she had between 20 and 30 people enrolled. She began with two evening classes a week, but this proved unsatisfactory. Men complained that they were too tired to attend classes after work, or had to leave early because they had to be up early the next morning. Since they found it difficult to attend evening classes, many of them would not allow their wives to go to classes on their own at night. Ruth then began an afternoon class for women.

These English classes led her to branch out into providing a wider range of assistance to migrant women. They came to her for personal advice. For many of them, she became a confidante: she found work for them; helped them to sort out problems their children were having at school; acted as a go-between with government departments; drove them to doctors' surgeries and to the hospital; and was a marriage guidance counsellor.

Later, students from Asia and the wives of diplomats would attend her classes and she provided counselling to them when she thought they needed it. Some of her pupils came from Government House and Dame Pattie Menzies asked her to hold a special class for foreign-born staff working at The Lodge, the Prime Minister's residence.

On the basis of all this work, Ruth was invited to join the Good Neighbour Council as an independent member. These councils had been established throughout Australia by the Commonwealth Government in the early 1950s, to welcome newcomers to the country and to assist them with their assimilation into the Australian way of life.

From a teacher of English and social worker, Ruth was later to teach economics at the boys' and girls' Church of England grammar schools. She would often invite to her Deakin home various students who were preparing for examinations. There she, and sometimes Heinz, would give tutorials in the sitting room. After this teaching, Ruth found herself employed by the Department of External Affairs (later the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) for 15 years in the Economic Relations Division. Ruth's job was to instruct Australian diplomats about to be posted overseas for the first time on how to prepare economic reports. From External Affairs, she became associated with various women's groups at the ANU, providing assistance and guidance to wives and students who had come to the university from overseas.

When the Arndt children were young, Ruth took an active part in the preschool at north Ainslie. She chaired a committee of residents who were appointed to raise funds for interior fittings and furniture. The committee quickly managed to collect £700 from cake stalls, raffles and dances. For several years, she chaired the preschool's committee of parents and citizens. When the building was not being used as a preschool, Ruth often held her English classes there.

On top of all this, she also for a while worked as a research assistant to Pat Pentony, who lectured in psychology at the CUC. He had secured a research grant to undertake a study of the relationship between parental attitudes and child behaviour at school, and he hired Ruth as an interviewer-assistant. Her task, as she put it, was to 'ask hundreds of indiscreet questions of some 200 parents of pre-school children'. She also accepted a temporary job in the Department of Demography at the ANU, which involved reading and reporting stories in German-language newspapers published in Australia; this was for a study of attitudes among migrants living in Australia.

Before his arrival in Canberra, Heinz had little need to purchase a motor car, as public transport in Britain and Sydney were adequate for his and the family's needs. He soon discovered, however, that living on the edge of Canberra was no place to be without a car. In September 1951, he borrowed just more than £400 from the Industrial Finance Department of the Commonwealth Bank to purchase a new Ford Anglia two-door sedan, the net price of which was £698. To save money for the down payment on the car, he decided that he would not go to the ANZAAS meeting in Brisbane that year.

Never the best of drivers, he was soon writing to friends about various motor accidents in which he was involved. Ruth had an accident while she was still learning to drive, Heinz informing friends that she had suffered the indignity 'of having a big Chevrolet knock a hole into the back of our car during one of her driving lessons'. In September 1954, he informed his former colleague Ron Barback that he was

...extremely lucky to escape from the car almost entirely unhurt (just a cut over my eye and a pulled muscle in my chest, both of which have cleared up very well). The other poor devil was very badly hurt and will be in hospital for 3-4 months; although he was indubitably at fault (crashing into me from the left at 35-40mph) you can't but feel very sorry for him.

For Heinz, the worst aspect of this accident was that he would be without a car for several weeks, including the school holidays. The insurance company estimated the repair costs as £150 (a very large amount in the early 1950s) and for a while he contemplated trading in the car for another. In the end, he had more urgent calls on his savings. In January 1958, he wrote to friends to inform them that he had exchanged 'the old and decrepit little Ford Anglia', which had clocked up 50,000 miles, for 'a new (second-hand) and, by our standards, enormous car, a Ford Zephyr, which at the moment thrills Ruth and me with as much awe and trepidation as pleasure (the Americans among you are permitted to indulge in a condescending smile)'.

In 1954, the Arndts decided that it was time to purchase a home. Two German carpenters had secured a block in Deakin that had been passed in at auction. They planned to build a house on the block in the evenings after work, and on the weekends, over 18 months. Heinz and Ruth agreed to buy the house and hoped to move into it during the summer of 1955-56.

There were, however, initially delays connected with the bank loan they had negotiated and with the college's guarantee of part of the loan.

Heinz wrote in March 1956 to Barback, informing him that the delays were 'very annoying not only because we are paying rent here [in north Ainslie] while the new house stands empty, but because our home life has been thoroughly unorganised by premature preparations'. It took some months to resolve these problems and when they finally were a thing of the past, Heinz and Ruth were able to move into 14 Hopetoun Circuit at Easter 1956.

Soon after they moved in, Heinz wrote a circular letter to friends about the new house

We are very happy with the house. It is no larger than our previous (rented) one [they were later to add an extra room], but much solidier, handsomer and in a much nicer part of Canberra. We did not venture on a really modern design—butterfly houses of every variety abound in the neighbourhood—but we managed to get most of the features on which we were really keen: large windows, large sitting and dining rooms connected by glass doors which fold right back to the walls, lots of built-in cupboard space, very nice front and back terraces, a pleasant kitchen in the front of the house where Ruth gets the splendid view when she looks up from the stove or sink (with a breakfast corner for family meals) and a good-sized garage. We also shocked the builders and painter by choosing two different shades of green for different walls of the sitting room and bright flamingo for the three outside doors to liven up the otherwise too sedate white of the house and green-grey of the roof.

Deakin, in Canberra's affluent southern suburbs, close to The Lodge, the grammar schools and foreign embassies, was only 15 minutes by car to the university. The Arndts' new house was opposite a local shopping centre and petrol station and close to bus stops. Heinz and Ruth were happy there and never wanted to move; fortunately, they never had to.

Though Heinz's Oxford degrees were predominantly in politics, and while he wrote and spoke frequently on political issues after he came to Australia, his only experience as an elected official was his membership of the ACT

Advisory Council, one of the forerunners of the present ACT Legislative Assembly. He was unsuccessful in 1955 at his first attempt to win a place on the council, but was successful when he stood again in 1959. Except for a brief period in 1960–61, when he was on leave in Geneva, he remained a member until 1964.

The Advisory Council was not a local government body, such as a municipal council. Rather it was a statutory authority, established by the Commonwealth Parliament to advise it on matters concerning the Australian Capital Territory. It could advise the Minister for the Interior (who had portfolio responsibility for the Australian Capital Territory) on legislative proposals relating to the Australian Capital Territory, and it could recommend alterations to ACT ordinances. But it had no legislative or executive responsibilities. Nor was the minister obliged to accept the Advisory Council's advice.

In 1955, the Canberra branch of the ALP endorsed three candidates to contest seats in the Advisory Council; Heinz was one of them. Nominations closed on 31 August and the election was held on Saturday 16 September. Heinz was at first reluctant to stand, but friends and party members encouraged him to do so.

Before becoming a candidate he needed to seek permission from the CUC council, which considered his nomination 'inadvisable but not improper'. This was not an entirely positive response, but neither was it an entirely negative one. In the event, he chose to proceed with his candidature, though he was far from confident that it would be successful. When Julius Stone, Professor of Law at the University of Sydney, contacted him in May 1955 to ask whether he would consider writing an article on the economic aspects of decisions relating to Section 92 of the Australian Constitution, Heinz replied that he was too busy: 'I have been induced to put up as a candidate for the ACT Advisory Council. While it is unlikely that I shall get in, the elections will make some claims on my time between now and September.'

During the election campaign in 1955, Heinz concentrated on housing, education, employment, social services and 'general amenities for the citizens of Canberra'. The demand for housing in Canberra continued to exceed supply, and the Labor team advanced a four-year plan for the construction of 5,000 houses. Related to this target were policies aimed at providing adequate housing finance and essential infrastructure, such as roads, footpaths and street lighting. Labor also highlighted the need to attract new industries to Canberra, to provide greater and more diversified employment opportunities, especially for young people.

There was a policy to re-establish the ACT Industrial Board to deal with wages, hours and working conditions, the Labor candidates claiming that standards had declined since the board was abolished. The ALP team pressed for a more realistic basic wage for Canberra, in line with the Australian Capital Territory's cost of living—which was higher than in most other parts of Australia—and for the appointment of an Apprenticeship and Industrial Inspector to enforce award conditions. In rural affairs, Labor promised to promote land settlement and protect small farming. It advocated a more favourable attitude to war service land settlement in the Australian Capital Territory; and it called for a fair deal for Jervis Bay, which legally (despite its location) was part of the Australian Capital Territory, and which, according to Labor, had been too long considered a plaything of 'service politics'.

In his policy speech for the election, Heinz declared that he was standing for the Advisory Council because he was a member of the ALP and supported its principles. He believed that the democratic system worked best when it operated through organised parties, 'which unite those with common ideas and a common political outlook'. Why, he asked, was a university professor standing for election? The answer was that he, as he put it

...believe[d] people who have received a special training in fields relevant to local government have a special duty to take on some share of the work. Canberra has, among its citizens, a lot of highly educated and knowledgeable people. It seems to me rather a pity, to use no stronger word, that so few of them play an active part in the public life of the city. I happen to be an economist, and I hope that as such I shall be able to make some contribution to the good government of our city...I am particularly anxious to see that the progress of the last year in the school building programme is maintained and, if at all possible, surpassed. Classes are already much too large and unless school accommodation and facilities are rapidly extended, there is real danger that Canberra's school system will be overwhelmed by the growth of the city's population in the next few years.

He wanted to see the construction of a modern technical college and the creation of a faculty of science and a residential hall at the CUC. Concerning social services in Canberra, he announced that: 'We shall see what can

be done to give Canberra a minimum of professional social welfare services, including provision for psychiatric treatment, child guidance, and an advice bureau on family, legal and other problems which the New Australians among us, in particular, need badly. 'There was a need to improve bus services, particularly feeder services to and from the outer suburbs; a speeding up in the supply of electric stoves—three hot plates instead of two—for all but the smallest houses; an additional recreation ground beside the Cotter Reserve; improvements to Manuka Oval and other sports grounds; and the provision of water supplies to the villages of Hall and Tharwa.

As an Advisory Council member, Heinz always favoured widening the range of local government in the Australian Capital Territory. In May 1962, he foreshadowed the introduction of a motion that 'the Minister be advised to establish a Legislative Council for the Australian Capital Territory'. He explained that a legislative council might retain at first the advisory functions of the current Advisory Council, but should then move gradually to acquire full municipal powers and responsibilities.

The next year, he proposed the building of a cultural centre in Canberra. Such a centre, he argued, should include a home for cultural clubs and societies—along the lines of what later became the Griffin Centre in Civic—and a theatre and ancillary accommodation for the Canberra Repertory Society and other local theatrical groups. This theatre would be in addition to the one being built in Civic Square, which Heinz considered to be primarily a commercial enterprise. What he proposed was a venue to house performances by amateur groups. He quoted Menzies, who, on many occasions, had said that Canberra should be regarded not only as the political centre of the nation, but should be its cultural heart. In Heinz's final year as a member of the Advisory Council, he chaired a committee that recommended the development of a Canberra Public Library Service in association with the National Library of Australia.

Heinz's career as a local politician came to an end in 1964, shortly after he took up his appointment to the chair of economics in the Research School of Pacific Studies. In his letter of resignation, he cited pressure of work and his intention in the years to come to spend extensive periods of time overseas, especially in Asia.