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**Amos John McVeigh (1916 – 2013), former Branch and Federal Secretary, Federated Liquor & Allied Industries Union (LTU). (Interviewed by Ted Forbes, Australian Society for the Study of Labour History - 5 September 1997)**

**Mr Forbes** – Amos, when did you first join a union?

**Mr McVeigh** - I first joined the Australian Workers Union (AWU) in the shearing industry in outback Queensland. I went to Queensland towards the end of the depression because we could not get any work in NSW. I went up into Queensland to Charleville and Cunnamulla and in that country. I got some work in the shearing industry and I joined the AWU. That was one of the first things you did when you worked in the shearing shed.

**Mr Forbes** - When was this?

**Mr McVeigh** - That was in 1939. I left school in 1929 in NSW and received mostly dole work. I worked firstly on a farm for 10 bob a week, which is \$1 a week now, and my food. I left there and went to another farm which had a lot of sheep. I worked there for 3 years for \$1.50 per week.

**Mr Forbes** - Is that 15 bob?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes, 15 bob it was then. I left there and went all around NSW trying to get work but there was none. I did do a bit of droving and that but nothing of any consequence. I finally decided to go into Queensland in early 1939, before the outbreak of war.

**Mr Forbes** – So your first union was the AWU. What about the rest of your union history?

**Mr McVeigh** - I could tell you that in the shearing industry in Queensland there was great dissatisfaction within the rank and file, so they decided to hold conferences themselves. Each town elected a delegate, or a number of delegates, according to size, and a conference was held in Barcaldine, of all towns. I was elected as one of the delegates from one of the towns. We decided there to go on strike for extra money. The union would not take the matter to court until we were on strike for a certain number of months and then they decided they would take it to court.

We went back to work while it was heard in the court, and when we got the decision, we held further meetings in the towns and we decided to accept the amount of money offered. It was not what we had demanded but it was somewhere towards it.

The next thing, and one of the most important things in the shearing industry, was a 40-hour week. In 1946, we had a similar delegates conference in Barcaldine and we decided that everybody in the shearing sheds, from 1 January 1947, would not work any longer than 40 hours. We would work 8 hours per day, Monday to Friday. They used to work two runs a day of 4 hours on the Saturday and the decision was that we would not report to the shearing shed on the Saturday. Consequently, in 1947, most contractors signed men on to work a 40-hour week.

**Amos McVeigh, Liquor Trades Union**

Later the AWU State Secretary in Queensland, Clarrie Fallon, went to the Industrial Commission on the basis that they were all working 40 hours per week. The court granted the 40-hour week in the shearing industry in 1947 in western Queensland. It was a state award.

**Mr Forbes** - Were you a workplace delegate or shop steward or anything like that while you were a rank and filer?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes, I left western Queensland and went down to Brisbane to work. I worked in the Ford motor works in the barge section. We were making landing barges for the war. There I was elected as shop steward and I was on the workers committee at Ford works. We were members of the Vehicle Builders Union. I took an active part in the trade union movement in Queensland. I attended all the union meetings and demonstrations. From there, I learnt a lot. After that, I joined the Allied Works Council and I was sent to the Northern Territory and worked on a road job that was being asphalted and built up between Mt Isa and Darwin. The road went from Mt Isa to link up with the Tennant Creek - Darwin road.

**Mr Forbes** - What did you do on that job?

**Mr McVeigh** - I was working in the bush kitchens there.

**Mr Forbes** - What union?

**Mr McVeigh** - The AWU covered them I think. There was not much union activity or many officials.

**Mr Forbes** - The AWU would have had the lot there.

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes. But each camp had a local committee; there were a lot of camps.

**Mr Forbes** - You put in a fair bit of time with the Liquor Trades Union, didn't you?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes. After I finished there - I had to leave because of health reasons - I came back to Brisbane and from there I went on to Sydney and saw some of my people who were living there. I got a job to come to Canberra to work at the Eastlake Works Hostel. At that time, there was a boom in the building trade here as they were trying to build Canberra. It was a Labor government and they were building works hostels. I got a job to work at the Eastlake Hostel as a yardman and attended boilers and that in the hostel. The hostel held 500 men and had quite a number of kitchen hands and those types of people. I discovered when I got there that nobody who worked in the hostel was in a union. I made enquiries and discovered that the hostel should be covered by the Federated Liquor and Allied Industries Union. The Trades and Labour Council (TLC) secretary in Canberra at that time had contact with that union and had authority to act for them.

**Mr Forbes** - Are we talking about the early 1950s here?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes. It was in July 1947 when I came to Canberra.

**Mr Forbes** - So just two years after the war.

**Amos McVeigh, Liquor Trades Union**

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes. A lot of English carpenters had been brought out here and they were living in the hostels. Consequently, I went to Sydney and saw the Secretary of the Liquor Trades Union and he gave me a book and installed me as a job steward in that hostel. As the Secretary of the TLC had access to help them, if they had any dispute, he authorised me to act on behalf of the union in several places in Canberra.

**Mr Forbes** - Did they call you an organiser or anything like that?

**Mr McVeigh** - Not then. I wasn't working full-time for them. I was still working at the hostel. On my days off, I used to do things for the union.

**Mr Forbes** - Did they pay you anything?

**Mr McVeigh** - It was on a commission. I think it was 10 percent or something.

**Mr Forbes** - Yes, that was the usual.

**Mr McVeigh** - From that, I used to attend the Arbitration Commission. It was known as the Industrial Board here and it operated under an ordinance of the federal government. It was established in Canberra because there was no other authority to act in industrial matters (other than for public servants). The Board sat with a chairman and two representatives from employers and two workers' representatives.

**Mr Forbes** - Like the Victorian wages boards.

**Mr McVeigh** - It probably was. But it had a lot of powers. It had powers to fix wages and to fix all working conditions in the ACT. That Board was first established in 1922.

**Mr Forbes** - It had legislative power, didn't it?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes, it did. What happened before that, back when they were building roads and the water and sewage systems in the ACT, the workmen had a very big dispute here and they had nobody to settle it. Consequently, they set up this Industrial Board. They even had powers to go as far as the basic wage, if that were necessary. It was a very good form of arbitration. As a matter of fact, it was very successful. It was accepted.

The TLC here at that time were all local people and they knew what went on and they accepted the Industrial Board. It was a feature of employment in Canberra. But in 1949, the Commonwealth Arbitration Court refused to hear a basic wage claim made by the ACTU. They more or less pegged the basic wage; they wouldn't go on with it. So in Canberra, the unions pressed the Industrial Board to hear a basic wage claim. Dr Evatt was Attorney-General and it was he, we felt, who made the move to abolish the Industrial Board.

He went overseas and Nick McKenna was acting Attorney-General. It was left in his hands and it was abolished. At that time, Mr Tom Findlay was Chairman of the Industrial Board, and he was also appointed a Conciliation Commissioner. He used to hear cases in NSW in different ways. Consequently, when they wiped the Industrial board, he sat as a Conciliation Commissioner in the ACT. The understanding was that there would be no loss to anybody in relation to the determinations that had been made by the Industrial Board. From then on, they developed into federal awards, made within the boundaries of the ACT.

**Amos McVeigh, Liquor Trades Union**

**Mr Forbes** - I don't suppose there would be many people around now who would remember that Industrial Board or who was active on it. You're the first one that I have met who has even raised the existence of it. I certainly didn't know about it.

**Mr McVeigh** - There are a couple I think.

**Mr Forbes** - Yes, but they are not officials that I know of. They got lost in the crowd.

**Mr McVeigh** - I think Doug Carpenter would have known something about it.

**Mr Forbes** - Yes, he would have.

**Mr McVeigh** - Brian O'Reilly would also know something about it.

**Mr Forbes** - Yes, I'll probably catch up with Brian some time. You became a full-time officer of the LTU, as I understand it. How did that come about?

**Mr McVeigh** - It came about when I was working at Eastlake Hostel as a delegate. An organiser from Sydney used to come up here and he didn't have time to go around to all of the places. Consequently, on my day off, where he couldn't go, I went. I told the Secretary in Sydney that I had difficulty in getting time off. Consequently, the management committee in NSW decided that I should be appointed full-time. I think it was 1 July 1950 that I first started on a full-time basis.

Prior to that, in 1948, the NSW Secretary came up and we set up a sub-branch in Canberra and I was elected sub-branch Secretary. We had a full sub-branch here but the money was sent to NSW because they handled the money there. In the 1950s, I became the full-time Secretary and the sub-branch continued on. From then, I organised the whole of the ACT covered by the LTU - that included hotels, hostels, clubs, a motel, cordial factory and cafes.

**Mr Forbes** - What was your maximum membership at any time?

**Mr McVeigh** - About 500.

**Mr Forbes** - Did you go outside of the ACT? Were you responsible for Yass or Goulburn or anywhere like that.

**Mr McVeigh** - I did make some trips to Queanbeyan and I did make some trips to the Snowy Mountains Authority when it was started up under the Chifley government, under Minister Lemmon. I went up there and signed up kitchen employees in the camps that were spread over the Snowy Mountains.

**Mr Forbes** - Cooma and that?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes. The Norwegians had kitchens up there and Cooma and all up into the Kosciuszko area.

**Mr Forbes** - And you stayed with the union until your retirement, didn't you?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes. I had access to the Industrial Board for cases for the union. In the early part, NSW used to send people here. They had an officer in the TLC in Sydney who used to come up here and do cases at times when the Industrial Board sat at different periods. Eventually, I think they finished him up at the TLC in Sydney and each union more or less had to do their own cases. Some had state secretaries who would come up and do them and some had a federal secretary. I took on the ACT for the LTU in the Commission. That is where I learned to advocate for awards and we won a lot of things.

**Mr Forbes** - Yes, the first time I saw you was in the Commission.

**Mr McVeigh** – Then I went up to Sydney as the state Secretary was getting old and pretty sick, and the management committee asked that I come to Sydney to work with him and help him. When I went to Sydney he had died. Consequently, I stayed there with an organiser for a time until an election was held. I stood for Secretary and won that. I became state Secretary for NSW, which covered the ACT as well.

**Mr Forbes** - When was that?

**Mr McVeigh** - That would have been in about 1955 or 56. From there, we amalgamated with the Hotel, Club and Restaurants Union and their officials came over and it was more or less an absorption of them into the LTU. I carried on there for a good while and then I resigned that position and came back to Canberra in 1962 to look after Canberra. While I was in the union, I was also a delegate to the Federal Council, when I was Secretary. I continued on with that for a time. Then the Federal Secretary got sick and had an operation. I went down to relieve him while he was sick and in hospital. When he came out I went back to work in Canberra again. He seemed to be all right but then he relapsed and couldn't work. I was appointed then to go down and act as Federal Secretary. But then he died - I forget what year it was. We had an election for Federal Secretary and I stood and became Federal Secretary of the Federated Liquor Trades Union in Melbourne on the understanding that if I did win, the Federal Office would be brought back to Canberra, because I had a home here.

**Mr Forbes** - That would have been in the 1960's.

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes, I think it was about that time.

**Mr Forbes** - Was Jim Coull the State Secretary down in Melbourne at that time?

**Mr McVeigh** - No, Jim had died then and Jim Munro was Victorian Branch Secretary.

**Mr Forbes** - That would be the late 1960's.

**Mr McVeigh** – 1967 - that's when it was.

**Mr Forbes** - So you were Federal Secretary then?

**Mr McVeigh** - Actually, I was elected in 1968. 1967 is when the Federal Secretary got sick.

**Mr Forbes** - Yes, I remember that Jim went blind and deaf and then died.

**Amos McVeigh, Liquor Trades Union**

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes.

**Mr Forbes** - Did you then remain an official of the union until you retired?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes.

**Mr Forbes** - When was that?

**Mr McVeigh** - I retired in 1972. After my retirement a young chap was elected Federal Secretary and I went back as an Assistant Secretary, elected, for two or three years until 1976. It was 1974 to 1976. That was to assist him.

**Mr Forbes** - That was during the Whitlam government?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes.

**Mr Forbes** - It was exactly that time. How did you come to be active with the bakers?

**Mr McVeigh** - What happened in the Bakers Union was that, while I was still Secretary in Canberra, they had a very big dispute (in 1964) and none of them were in the union. They got mixed up trying to get a new award. They went to some people in the TLC and they tried to serve a log of claims. But that was not an authority. It was not any good and they couldn't accept it. I was prevailed upon by certain people in Canberra to file a proper log for them and to go to the Commission and try to get them an award, which I did. We finally got a very good award for the bakers out of it and got them back to work. I got them joined up into the Bakers Union through the South Australian Branch because it was not active as a federal union at that time. We did it on a commission basis. We sent our receipts to SA and we only got about a 50 per cent commission, which I banked for them. But I acted for them while I was Secretary of the Liquor union.

After I retired from the union, I was invited to a conference of the Baker's Union, which was trying to get working as an official federation. I went to a conference with them in Adelaide where they decided that they would try to form a federal organisation. Some of them were bread carters - the Bread Carters of NSW. I attended meetings with solicitors in Sydney to try to get proper registration for them as a federal union. I pressed for them, that they also have autonomy in Canberra and form a Canberra branch of the Baker's Union. Consequently, evidence was given to the Federal Industrial Registrar and the rules were registered. I carried on with the Bakers here but only in a part-time sort of arrangement. I didn't take any wages for it. It was only a sort of hobby for me then. I got some expenses for it, car expenses or something like that, until my time was up as a Secretary - I forget what year it was -

**Mr Forbes** - I think it was about 1988.

**Mr McVeigh** - And we approached the Miscellaneous Union for a secretary, and you carried it on. I went into full retirement then.

**Mr Forbes** - There are a few other questions we normally ask. You were a family man with children during this time. Did the union affect your life? You have been a union official for a long time. How many children do you have?

**Mr McVeigh** - One boy.

**Mr Forbes** - Did you ever feel that union work interfered with your life?

**Mr McVeigh** - The biggest part that interfered with my life was when I took on the job as full-time state Secretary of NSW. We had to shift our home from Canberra. My son was born here. My wife was more or less born in this area and they persisted at me in NSW to come back to Canberra. They didn't like Sydney and they didn't want to stop there. That was one reason why I resigned as state Secretary.

**Mr Forbes** – You're local too, aren't you? Didn't the McVeighs come from Young?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes, I was born at Young.

**Mr Forbes** - I think the old Secretary of the Miscellaneous Workers Union was a relative of yours, Les McVeigh. He set up the Miscellaneous Union here in 1960 or 1961. He was also from Young, wasn't he?

**Mr McVeigh** – Yes, he was my first cousin, Les. He was born at Young. He was about 96 when he died. He was an old man.

**Mr Forbes** - You have told us about the Industrial Relations Commission and you became very adept at handling yourself on union matters - claims, award making and disputes in there. I've seen you there and I'm convinced that you were good at that.

**Mr McVeigh** – And also I was a Federal Secretary and in the Federal Commission. We did some major cases. One was a five-day week in the industry, penalty rates for Saturday and Sunday and night shift penalty rates. They were some main cases. Another was equal pay for women.

**Mr Forbes** – With the advent of the Hawke Labor government, of course you were already retired but still a bit active with the Baker's Union so you would clearly recall it. Do you believe that the 13 years of the Labor government was a help or a hindrance to the trade union movement? Here, we are talking about the effect that the Accord had on the union as a functioning unit.

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes, well I was about finishing in the union when the Accord came in. I think the approach to the federal government with the Accord was detrimental to the trade union movement. I think we should have stayed in the arbitration court with awards, and anything above that were over-award payments or agreements that you could get with employers and put into the awards. But they should not have lined up with the government in that way. I think it was actually wrong altogether, an absolute failure. And that's what has led to what is happening today.

**Mr Forbes** - Yes, quite a number of people have reflected that that was the case. Did you think so at the time?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes. I always thought that the approach should have been made on our own basis and granted and pushed forward in the Arbitration Commission - in the awards, in writing. I think some approaches should have been made to the government to help with some legislation.

**Mr Forbes** - But you think that the negotiations and the tussles should have taken place before we went to the Commission?

**Mr McVeigh** - And with the rank and file and then into the Arbitration Commission. I don't believe in their approach. I think there were some things, where they could have agreed perhaps to adopt a 40-hour week, for example. They could have granted that but they didn't do it. I think that was a downfall of the trade union movement.

**Mr Forbes** - During that time the ACTU were involved in determining union policy and practice. I guess that was done from the top. Did you see that as being harmful?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes. I think you have got to have it done from the rank and file. I don't think on that basis it is very good for the trade unions to be amalgamated in several big unions. I think the idea was that the employers were doing that and that they would match them. But I think you probably had better rank and file attendance with smaller unions.

**Mr Forbes** - There was no involvement you think.

**Mr McVeigh** - You have got to work with the rank and file. The idea of the rank and file, to me, is delegates on the job. And I think the stoppage of wages in your pay is not essentially the best. I think you have got to do it with the rank and file.

**Mr Forbes** - Since you have mentioned the method of payment (of union dues) being through the pay, when this is withdrawn, those members are immediately lost, aren't they.

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes, they're lost. I have spoken to people and they have said, 'What approach have I got from the union? The boss is my union. The boss is taking it out of my pay. We don't know what is going on here.' It automatically happens as a pay deduction.

**Mr Forbes** - Without them knowing they're in the union really.

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes. I think the way is for delegates and I think delegates should be given a very good commission and encouragement to do it. That is the way to go. Probably in some vague industries it may be better by deduction but there are not many. They still lose contact with the rank and file and that is one of the main reasons that I think there has been a decline in trade union membership.

**Mr Forbes** - I think you touched briefly on the creation of the super unions. The ACTU had a plan for the creation of 20 super unions. That is more or less complete now. Did you think that was a good idea?

**Mr McVeigh** - No. I did think it was a good idea in a way to match the employers banding up in big strong forces. But I now feel that it has taken away a lot of rank and file ownership, like when they were involved as a small union and on the job and they were unionists. With this bigger stuff, well I don't think they all get the right attention.

**Mr Forbes** - That's not to say that a good big union, properly organised, could still involve its rank and file though, couldn't it, depending on the quality of its organisers?



**Mr McVeigh** - I think on the quality of their organisers and their officials, it could. But I think that whatever it is, it has got to be contact with the rank and file through organisers and through job delegates. I think delegates should be paid a fair amount of commission to do the job and that is where you get back with the rank and file. They have got to be involved.

**Mr Forbes** - Enterprise bargaining came into practice with the Labor government. Of course, your retirement preceded that by many years but you know about it and you understand what has happened. What is your view about it? I asked a number of questions about it to those who are still active.

**Mr McVeigh** - I think one of the greatest things against it is that -

**Mr Forbes** - The destruction of the award system and its replacement with this other system. What is your view about that?

**Mr McVeigh** - I think it was wrong in the extreme. I think that the award system should have been maintained because you had something in writing, you had a legal document, you could prosecute easily against breaches of awards and there are a lot by ordinary employers. Many of them rob the workers. They should be in gaol. But I feel any approach should be the award as it stands. This thing of giving conditions away for money is absolutely wrong. They had to be fought for to get. Most people who are dealing with it do not know how we struggled to get the increases.

**Mr Forbes** - That is an important point and some people have noted that the educational process stopped when the Accord began. Things were too automatic, no involvement.

**Mr McVeigh** - No involvement. I think part should have been over-award payments, over the award amount of money, or get money roped back into the award but not to interfere with what the award was.

**Mr Forbes** - To a certain extent, enterprise bargaining is not something very new then. The fact is that we often did make one-off claims on particular employers and get an over-award payment. The two systems used to run side by side, didn't they?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes, the first over-award payment I got in Canberra was with the government. It was never heard of before. It was with the Department of the Interior. I got over-award payments for cooks but it never interfered with the award. It was stood by and held right through. The over-award was paid to chefs by the Department of the Interior. That was negotiated with Mr McLaren, who was Secretary of the Department of the Interior many years ago.

**Mr Forbes** - Yes, too long ago for me. With regard to being a union official, I guess it was a bit tough picking your family up and taking them away to a place where they weren't happy and so forth. So that being a union official, if you are a good one, being conscientious and responsive to the needs of the rank and file can interfere with your personal domestic happiness. Say if one of your grandchildren said that they wanted to be a union official or was offered the job and said, 'Hey, granddad, I'm going to be a union official.' Would that please you?

**Amos McVeigh, Liquor Trades Union**

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes, if they had the demeanour to work for other people, to try and improve their lot in life, it would please me. They talk about societies for children, they talk about what Diana done. A genuine trade unionist does that every day. The only kick you get out of being a trade unionist is when you are successful in getting somebody's job back or where you have got him extra money, or in cases where he has been underpaid and robbed and you are able to get it back for him. That is the best kick of all for a trade union official. If they wanted to do that sort of work I would say, 'Yes, they were doing a great job.'

**Mr Forbes** – Yes, so it's a respectable profession, isn't it?

**Mr McVeigh** - I would say that it is, one of the best.

**Mr Forbes** - It wouldn't be attacked so much by the powers that be in the present government, if it was not respectable, would it?

**Mr McVeigh** - No. They are anti-trade unionists.

**Mr Forbes** - There is always something of the aspect of the felon given to the trade unions and trade union activity, right from the beginning – from the time of the Master and Servants Act. If you kicked up, you were a criminal, weren't you?

**Mr McVeigh** – Yes, like the Tolpuddle martyrs and the convicts. They weren't allowed to ask for something better. They were flogged if they did. It has been in this country from the time of the convicts.

**Mr Forbes** - People were sent overseas, it was criminal, for not only stealing but also for actually consorting with organisers, for organising a conspiracy, wasn't it?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes.

**Mr Forbes** - That hasn't really changed, has it?

**Mr McVeigh** - No, you could still be victimised for asking for better conditions, pay or shorter hours. Even for that you could be victimised and eventually sacked.

**Mr Forbes** - But the trade unionist, the more active and successful he is, the more he is projected by this government, and the media pretty generally, as something of a criminal.

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes, I saw not long ago in the paper that trade unions who fought for and obtained weekend penalty rates should be more or less sorry for it now. I'm not; I'm proud of it. Proud of it!

**Mr Forbes** – So you should be. Did you ever have any political affiliations during the time you were active as a trade unionist?

**Mr McVeigh** - No, not directly.

**Mr Forbes** - So you never joined a party? You were never active in a party? Some of them were fairly active in the ALP and had some positions there but you never did – you were strictly industrial?

**Amos McVeigh, Liquor Trades Union**

What about the Trades and Labour Council here? Were you a member of that? Did you attend TLC meetings?

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes, I remember the TLC here. I was on their disputes committee. I was also Secretary of the TLC for a period.

**Mr Forbes** – Were you, approximately when?

**Mr McVeigh** – I think it would have been in the 1950s.

**Mr Forbes** - Can you remember anyone who followed you? We've lost count of the people before Charles McDonald. There must have been plenty of people preceding him.

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes, I think Horrie Wilson was Secretary for a time after. He was the local Secretary of the FEDFA. He later went to England and I believe he died over there. The first Secretary when I came here was a man by the name of Stan Blumenthal. He was Secretary for a number of years. Sid Rhodes was President for a number of years. Then Bruce Yuill was President at the time the Queen came out here to visit. After him Fred McCauley became President.

**Mr Forbes** - Did Les McVeigh ever have a position on the TLC?

**Mr McVeigh** - He might have. There was a period when I was away in NSW when I didn't know much of what was happening here. There was a fellow named Murray Tully who was Secretary for a time.

**Mr Forbes** - Yes, he was an organiser for the Miscellaneous Union for a time too.

**Mr McVeigh** - Yes, I could tell you the date for the start of the TLC but I would have to look it up for you. I think the TLC started in 1930 or 1931 in the ACT.

**Mr Forbes** - Have you got records of that somewhere?

**Mr McVeigh** - Of when the TLC first started, yes. And what unions were in that.

**Mr Forbes** - Sometime if you look that up, I will put it on the end of this tape so that it is recorded.

**Mr McVeigh** - I could probably find it for you.

**Mr Forbes** - Amos will look for some old documents to do with the TLC, and some publications that were put out at that time. He was not there then. What we might do is halt this interview now and come back to it later.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Tape ends at this point. (Ed)

**Amos McVeigh, Liquor Trades Union**

**Notes appended to original transcript:**

Tom Findlay was George A Findlay and as at May 1998 his black and white photo hangs in Court 1 of the AIRC (Canberra Office).

Amos McVeigh rode a bicycle around Canberra until 1954 when he progressed to a motor bike.

Murray Tully was a representative of the Blacksmith's union.

Fred McCauley was Secretary of the Building Workers Industrial Union (BWIU) and was an apprentice on the provisional Parliament House.

Doug Carpenter was the Secretary of the Transport Workers Union.

Brian O'Reilly is at May 1998 an organiser for the Communications, Electrical, Electronic, Energy, Information, Postal, Plumbing and Allied Services Union (formerly Plumbers and Gasfitters Union).

The Bakers dispute in 1965 involved a strike of 2 weeks.

Amos McVeigh was still appearing in the Commission in 1988, at 72 years of age.

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**Supplementary notes:**

Amos McVeigh served as Secretary of the ACT TLC in 1953-54.

He was appointed to act as NSW Branch Secretary of the LTU in December 1957, replacing James Gorman who had resigned due to ill health.

He replaced James Manie as Federal Secretary in 1967 and retired from that position in 1972.