Government backs Collins St complex

RIALTO: IT'S OVER

Vith much pomp and ceremony the State Government is week announced the bulldozing through of new ans for the Rialto precinct of Collins Street.

The plans were passed by Cabinet after negotiations overnight tween developers and the Historic Building Preservation Council. o representatives of the HBPC spoke at the official announcement out the future of the Rialto precinct.

The announcement s made only hours fore the expiry of an icial deadline threatening to pull out of the $300 illion project. Planning inister Lou Lieberman ld reporters: "No one ists my arm."

The "new" plan now proved is virtually the me as the second plan bmitted to the HBPC by developers of the oject, the Grollo and St artins groups.

In essence it means the mplete restoration of the storic Rialto, Winfield d York Butter Factory ildings at a cost of $25 illion.

Two new buildings, one of storeys and the other of will go up behind the old othic buildings. An earlier an called for three new ildings of 44, 36 and 22 oreys.

The Rialto will now ecome a hotel and the ork Butter factory a estaurant. The tall ildings will be set back rther from the old facade an in original plans.

At the announcement of e approval of the latest lans there was much talk of ompromise.

Said Premier Lindsay Thompson: "It's impossible o please anybody (sic). The eople of Melbourne anted action — and we're iving it to them."

Said Planning Minister Lou Lieberman: "It blends evelopment with an esthetic approach . . . it nds a 10-year saga of isappointment . . . on one f the most difficult edevelopment sites in the orld."

by BARRY DOYLE

When contacted later by *TMT* the HBPC also spoke of compromise.

Said a spokesman: "We compromised on our position in order to get the development going."

Did government pressure

this critically important street-scape.

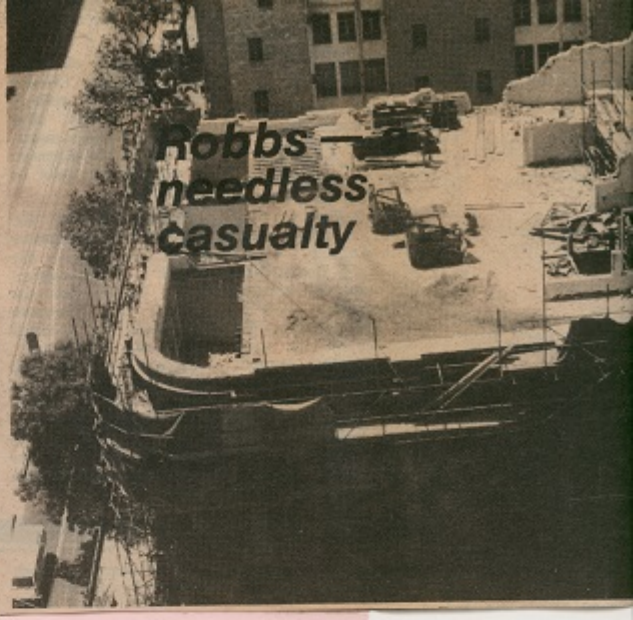
"Melbourne is fast becoming the disgrace and laughing stock of the country.

"Our city contains Australia's most significant historic buildings and street-scapes. Yet instead of protecting these, the Minister (Mr. Lieberman)

Get the facts from a soldier at the Army Careers Centre, in the Training Depot, 202 Burwood Road, Hawthorn (next to Melbourne Herald Building). Or phone

818 5321

Australian Regular Army



THE MELBOURNE TIMES
25TH NOVEMBER, 1981