

FUTURIAN OBSERVER

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A STATEMENT OF FACT

No doubt by this time readers of Futurian OBSERVER have seen and read the Anniversary and December issues of ULTRA. Editor Russell in his editorial has stated three reasons for the lateness of ULTRA's appearance. The object of this article being to show the true state of affairs behind the first two of these, we shall quote them: "1. The exorbitant price asked by the party who duplicated the first, second and fourth mimeod issues" and "2. The refusal and inconsistency of certain Ausy fans when asked to contribute material to an All-Australian issue". We'll deal with the first.

What, Eric Russell, is your idea of an "exorbitant price". Might we point out to our readers (who by now, have guessed that this was aimed at us) that whereas we offered Eric Russell a reasonable price for the use of our machine he refused it, and then went so far as to accept a higher price from other fans in Sydney. (We have actual facts and figures to back up our statements, but deign to use them as it would probably embroil neutral fans. Should Russell press the issue we shall produce these facts.) Russell has previously been allowed the use of OBS duplicator absolutely free of charge provided he used his own materials for the actual printing. However, the screen of OBS machine is good for 5,000 copies and at the most 5,500 before having to be replaced. Russell is well aware of this fact, but expected that we would run off some 2,000 sheets of the Anniversary issue free. The fact that this would depreciate the value of the screen much sooner than was anticipated did not matter to him! As a result when OBS placed the price of two copies of ULTRA for every ten run off, he would not accept. (He had previously stated that some 50 copies would have to be printed so we requested 60 copies to be done, the extra ten being given to us in payment. Between us we had intended to buy or exchange this number so actually what was asked was merely our copies free and thus would not infringe regular subscription list.) Russell's first act then was to accept a higher price from other parties!

Russell's object in doing this is fairly obvious – he wanted to stir up trouble. He turned down the VC offer as an excuse to recommence feuding in Sydney. This deliberate trouble-making effort is significant of past actions of Eric F. Russell and must be opposed by every progressive Australian fan! Russell has caused trouble aplenty before now – he cannot be allowed to continue in this manner. This is something really serious and Australian fandom cannot afford to be hampered by such a state of affairs time after time! It must be stopped!

To deal with the second reason: This is nothing more than an open attack on such well-known and well-liked fans as H. Pinnock, Charles La Coste and Marshall B. MacLennan! These fans have not the time to devote to science fiction fandom as have younger fans and this despicable attack only shows the selfish, egotistical nature of Eric F. Russell in expecting the fans to devote their time especially for his benefit.

Reading further down the page we learn that ULTRA has been receiving the moral and active support of Dwyer and Smith. These two readers of ULTRA have openly attacked all branches of fan activity and refused to co-operate with other fans in the maintenance of a science fiction club.

