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BUILDERS LABOURERS' FEDERATION (CANCELLATION OF  
REGISTRATION) BILL 1986

Date introduced: 8 April 1986  
House: House of Representatives  
Presented by: Hon. Ralph Willis, M.P., Minister  
for Employment and Industrial  
Relations

DIGEST OF BILL

Purpose

To cancel the registration of the Australian Building Construction Employees' and Builders Labourers' Federation (BLF) under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904.

Background

The Government first legislated to de-register the BLF in late 1985 when the Building Industry Act 1985 came into force. That Act provided for a hearing by the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, at the Minister's request, to determine if the BLF had breached undertakings given to the Commission or the Federal Court, or had acted contrary to the principles of arbitration. If the Commission declared that the BLF had breached agreements or acted contrary to the principles of arbitration, the Minister was given power to, amongst other options, de-register the BLF. The Building Industry Act 1985 also provided for the Minister to allocate the coverage removed from the BLF to other unions. On 4 April 1986 the Commission declared that the BLF had breached undertakings and acted contrary to the principles of arbitration.

However, following the Commission's declaration the Government announced that it would not proceed under the Building Industry Act 1985 but would introduce separate legislation to ensure the immediate de-registration of the BLF and the allocation of its coverage to other unions. In the Second Reading Speech for this Bill, the Minister stated that 'without immediate action, the BLF will undoubtedly do

everything in its power to string out for many months final resolution of proceedings under the Building Industry Act in relation to it and, at the same time, place massive industrial pressure on employers not to support the Government's action'.[1]

For further information on the BLF's activities prior to the introduction of the Building Industry Act 1985, refer to the Digest for that Bill (No. 85/148).

### Main Provisions

Clause 3 will cancel the BLF's registration under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904.

For further information, if required, contact the Economics and Commerce Group.

21 April 1986

Bills Digest Service  
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### Reference

1. House of Representatives, Hansard, 8 April 1986, p.1827.

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