

Under its Act, the Committee has a specific responsibility to recommend law reform and changes in administrative and business practices. One of its major achievements is the voluntary agreement procured from credit bureaux to comply with self regulation rules suggested by the Committee. A.L.R.C. Chairmam, Mr. Justice Kirby, has stressed many times the role of self regulation in privacy protection. However, the recent report in England on *Privacy and Computers* suggests that the time for self regulation in this field has passed.

Privacy : The Opposition Speaks Out

On the Federal Reference, the A.L.R.C. project has secured support from every political quarter. In a speech to the Australian National University, Senator James McClelland, talking on *Privacy and the Law* put it this way:

"I am pleased to be talking to you on a subject which transcends party politics. One of the more tedious aspects of my trade is that I must always find only virtue on my side of politics and only vice on the other side. ... So I am delighted to be able to tell you that there is at least one thing on which both Labor and Liberals agree : the need for the law to renew itself in the protection of individual privacy".

Senator McClelland called attention to the complexity of the task and the difficulties of securing national privacy protection in a federation:

"The problem confronting the Law Reform Commission is to strike some balance between the individual's desire for privacy, the legitimate activities of a free press and the need to collect and disseminate information implicit in being able to govern a modern society. It won't be an easy task but ... the inquiry is in good hands and it will conduct its hearings under the scrutiny of the public. I for one wish it well".

New Reports on Law Reform

The following are the reports relating to law reform received by the A.L.R.C. between July 1976 and September 1976:

Australia:

- A.L.R.C. : *Alcohol, Drugs and Driving* (A.L.R.C.4), 1976.
- A.L.R.C. : Australian Law Reform Agencies Conference, *Minutes of First, Second and Third Conferences 1973-6*; including the record of the Third Conference Canberra, May 1976 (135pp).
- Aust. Roy. Comm. : Royal Commission on Human Relationships *Interim Report 1*
- Aust. Roy. Comm. : *Royal Commission on Australian Government Administration* (Dr. H.C. Coombs, Ch.) 1976. Report and Appendices.
- Aust. Comm. : *Commission of Inquiry on Law and Poverty*. Second Main Report 1976 (Prof. Sackville).
- Aust.Cttee : *Report of the Committee to review the Trade Practices Act 1974*. 1976 (Chairman : T.B. Swanson).
- N.S.W.L.R.C. : *On the Courts*, 1976, W.P.
- N.S.W. Registrar-General : *Application to Torrens Title of Land Laws Relating to Limitations of Action*, 1976, W.P.
- N.S.W.L.R.C. : *The Rule Against Hearsay*, W.P. 1976
- V.L.R.C. : *Rape Prosecutions (Court Procedures and Rules of Evidence)* 1976