

- N.S.W.L.R.C: 23: Report on the Land and Valuation Court, 1975
 24: Report on Proceedings by and Against the Crown, 1975
 25: Frustrated Contracts, 1976
 26: Report on Perpetuities and Accumulations, 1976
 Annual Report, 1976
- N.S.W.Law Foundn: Monogr. 1: Bail & Pre Trial Release 1977
 2: Deterrence & the Drinking Driver 1977
 3: Drugs, Alcohol & Community Control 1977
- N.S.W: A.G. Dept: Victimless Crimes, Seminar Papers, 1977
- N.S.W: Dept. Justice Cttee: Vagrancy, Drunkenness and Prostitution, 1976
- N.S.W. Inst. of Crim: 29: Complaints Against Police, 1977
- N.T.L.R.C: Tribal Marriages, 1977
- P.N.G.L.R.C: W.P.6: Criminal Responsibility: Taking Customs, Perceptions & Beliefs into Account, Feb. 1977.
 J.W.P.1: Indictable Offences Triable Summarily Feb.1977 (with Acting Chief Magistrate)
 O.P.2 Review of Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance)(Basic Protection Compensation) Act.
- S.A.L.R.C: Powers of Investment of Trustees, 1976
- V.S.L.R.C: Statute Law Revision Bill, 1977
- W.A.L.R.C: Report on Gaming Act, 1835, 1977
 Report on Competence & Compellability in Criminal Proceedings, 1977
 W.P.56: Review of Strata Titles Act, 1977

United Kingdom

Law Commission

- 77: Family Law: Matrimonial Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts, 1976
 W.P. 69: The Incapacitated Principal
 W.P. 70: Law of Contract: The Parol Evidence Rule

Scot. L.C.

- Memo 33: Law of Rights in Security: Company Law: Registration of Charges, 1976

Eng. Home Office

- Police Cautioning in England and Wales, H.O. Research Study, No.37

Canada

- Canada L.R.C: 5th Annual Report: A Never-ending Relay Race, 1976
- Manitoba L.R.C: W.P: Electoral Systems, 1976
 W.P: Political Financing and Election Expenses, 1977
 W.P: Controverted Elections Legislation 1977
- Quebec C.C: 43: Report on Legal Personality, 1976
 44: Report on Affreightment, 1976
 45: Report on Trusts, 1976
 46: Report on Registration, 1976, Part 2: Of Rights
 47: Report on Marine Insurance, 1976

New Zealand

- ✓ N.Z.C.C.L.R.C: Credit Contracts, 1976
 ✓ N.Z.C.C.L.R.C: Report on Culpable Homicide, 1976

Ireland

- Irish L.R.C: First Programme, 1977

Reform Proposals

The A.C.T.L.R.C. *Report on the Law Relating to Conveyancing* rejects "spectacular simplification" because it would drastically curtail rights "which are accepted as normal rights of owners of property in our society". The report addresses itself to a large number of practical suggestions to bring the A.C.T. law up to State legislation. It suggests a further committee to study the feasibility of computerization of land records in the A.C.T.

The P.N.G.L.R.C. W.P.6 *Criminal Responsibility* proposes the concept of a guilty mind modelled on the community the accused comes from, even though better educated persons "might not accept such a standard of knowledge and behaviour".

The N.S.W.L.R.C.'s Report on *Frustrated Contracts* attaches a draft Bill suggested by the English Act of 1943. It makes provision for repayment of monies paid before frustration; payment for any benefit which a party obtains and provision for costs incurred for the purpose of performing the frustrated contract.

The N.S.W.L.R.C.'s Report on *Perpetuities and Accumulations* lists the criticisms of these Rules. It proposes to fix an alternative period of eighty years as the period for the vesting of any future interest in property and to abolish the requirement of absolute certainty of the vesting and to substitute a "wait and see" rule. Various other modifications are proposed. Draft legislation is attached.

The Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on *Freedom of Information* suggests ways of introducing such legislation into the Commonwealth's sphere. Eleven categories of exclusion are proposed, including one for "unreasonable invasion of personal privacy". The Report of the Franki Committee on copyright law reform suggests changing the concept of "fair dealing". Two members would significantly extend non-remunerative copying. Copying by libraries and multiple copying is specifically dealt with.

The N.Z. Contracts and Commercial L.R.C. has produced its report on *Credit Contracts*. It differs in a number of respects from the Molomy Report and anticipated a proposal now made in South Australia for the introduction of a "cooling off period". The entire law of money lending is criticized as antiquated and in need of complete overhaul. The courts are proposed to have a power to examine all kinds of credit contracts and to grant remedies if they are found to be "harsh and unconscionable". One interesting means proposed to enforce the varied and detailed reforms is that the N.Z. Department of Justice should have power to institute court proceedings to ensure compliance with the suggested legislation.

The Law Com. W.P. 69 on *The Incapacitated Principal* examines the arguments for and against the introduction of an "enduring power of attorney". Subject to conditions and safeguards relating to formalities etc., the Law Com. favours this facility. In its W.P. 70 on *The Parol Evidence Rule*, the Law Com. concludes that the rule "no longer serves any useful purpose". It is characterized as a technical complication of litigation in the law of contract. Its abolition is proposed.

The Manitoba L.R.C.'s W.P.s on elections get pretty close to the political jugular. Multiple member constituencies and changes in voting systems are proposed. The recognition of political parties (as now proposed in the forthcoming Australian referendum) is suggested. Subject to full reporting, no overall limit is proposed on election expenses. Names of all contributors over \$400.00 per year should be published.

The Quebec C.C. *Report on Legal Personality* deals with a number of fundamental human rights. The right of privacy is asserted and applied to all persons "since corporate persons can suffer damage, e.g., theft, commercial and industrial espionage".

What's Going on in the L.R.C.s?

Australian Law Reform Commission (A.L.R.C.)

- * *Privacy*. Work in Hand (W.I.H.). Discussion paper on the concept of privacy, intrusion and communication due April 1977.
- * *Consumers in Debt*. Report (first stage) being completed, due May 1977.
- * *Human Tissue Transplants*. W.P. issued. See above p.24.
- * *Defamation*. W.P. issued. Further Discn. P. No. 2 on Publication and Privacy due April 1977.
- * *Insurance Contracts*. Chairman's outline of Commission's approach available. Contracts being examined to ascertain standard insurance conditions.
- * *Sanctions and Remedies in Law Reform*. Major paper for completion, April 1977.
- * *Access to Courts*. New Reference. See p. 28.
- * *Aboriginal Customary Laws*. New Reference. See p. 25.
- * *Law Reform Digest*. A.G.P.S. considering proposal for publication.

N.S.W. Law Reform Commission (N.S.W.L.R.C.)

- * *Legal Profession*: Major project now under way. See p. 23.
- * *Unincorporated Voluntary Associations*: New Reference. Deadline, mid 1977.