

*** The N.S.W. Law Foundation's readable publication *Legal Eagle* seeks to bring the law, its methods and principles to High Schools throughout N.S.W. About 340 schools are on the receiving list. The project's originator and manager, Tjerk Dusseldorp, is trying to make the law less of a mystery. The project has now received a grant from the Federal Government's Curriculum Development Centre. Interest in the law and in teaching it to all citizens is on the move.

*** During his visit to the Legal Convention, Dean Norval Morris alerted Australians to the proposal by the American Bar Association for the creation of a United States National Institute of Justice. The A.B.A. has now sent the A.L.R.C. its draft Bill designed to "improve the quality of justice and the fairness and effectiveness of the administration of law for all individuals throughout the country". It proposes an Institute to conduct basic and empirical research, to perform clearing house functions. The proposal is under examination by the Committee on the Judiciary of the United States House of Representatives. It is a development worth watching.

*** The New Zealand Royal Commission on the Courts is continuing its inquiry. The Royal Commissioner, Mr. Justice Beattie, recently visited Australia. New Zealand Law Society has produced a detailed first submission which has now reached us, suggesting important changes in court appointments and organisation.

Lively Law Council

"A Councillor ought not to sleep the whole night through".
Homer, The Iliad, II, 24.

No-one could accuse the Law Council, in its new image, of oversleeping. Apart from traditional activities in organising legal conventions and information within the profession, the Law Council is now playing an active part in responding to A.L.R.C. and other law reform bodies.

The Council's legal convention was outstandingly successful and included, in the closing session, a report by the Chief Justice, Sir Garfield Barwick, on the state of the Australian judiciary. This was the first such report. It is expected to become a regular feature of the Legal Convention. It is modelled on a similar event in the United States.

The Council also arranged for the return to Australia of Dr. Ian Scott, Director of the Institute of Judicial Administration at the University of Birmingham in England. Dr. Scott addressed numerous meetings on new methods of delivering justice in an efficient manner. He visited the A.L.R.C. and discussed ideas with the Commissioners.

Commenting on law reform proposals is now an arduous and time-consuming obligation of law council committees. Committees exist in respect of all references given to the A.L.R.C. But submissions are not limited to the A.L.R.C. The Council's Underprivileged and the Law Committee has delivered a report on *Social Security Appeals*. This is a matter currently under study by the Administrative Review Council in Canberra. It is critical for proposals concerning a better system of appeals in social security matters.

The Law Council has already produced the *Australian Legal Profession Digest*. This contains an epitome of important articles, newspaper comments and law journal material relevant to the legal profession.

Reform also comes in for competition. The rather staid *Law Council Newsletter* has blossomed forth as *Law News*. Sober presentation is replaced by pithy news items. Large photographs of legal personalities are scattered through its pages. *Reform* continues to restrain itself in this direction.