

N.Z. Rules Committee (N.Z.R.Cte.)

- *Civil Procedure*: Revision of the Code under consideration.

Queensland Law Reform Commission (Q.L.R.C.)

Further matters which have taken place since [1978] *Reform* 82.

- *Criminal Law*: Report on W.P.19 about to be submitted to the Minister.
- *Unincorporated Associations*: W.P. on a Draft Bill about to be circulated.

Tasmanian Law Reform Commission (T.L.R.C.)

- *Wills Reference*: Interim Committee Report considered by the Commission and agreed to in principle. Returned to the Committee dealing with this matter for preparation of a full draft report with comparative law.
- *Insanity and Diminished Responsibility*: Committee consisting of Mr. Justice F. M. Neasey (Chairman), the Crown Advocate, the Director of Forensic Medicine, a woman graduate at the Tasmanian University and a Commission member constituted to investigate and make recommendations to the Commission.
- *Conveyancing Reference*: Expert committee of nine, chaired by a Commission member, has been named and request made to the Attorney-General for a formal reference covering 15 matters of conveyancing law reform. The Attorney-General had previously asked whether the Commission would be in a position to undertake such a reference if it were granted.

South Australian Law Reform Committee (S.A.L.R.C.)

- *Dealing with simplified form of Mortgage.*
- *Blood in Paternity.*
- *Simplified forms of Rules of Court.*
- *Review of the Law of Animals.*

Criminal Law Reform Committee of South Australia (S.A.C.L.R.C.)

- *Mentally Ill Offenders*: Review of existing legislation in relation to these offenders.
- *Inquiry into Corporate Criminal Responsibility.*

Victorian Chief Justices Law Reform Committee (V.C.J.L.R.C.)

Not available.

Victorian Law Reform Commissioner (V.L.R.C.)

- *Crime: Duress, Coercion and Necessity*: W.P. distributed widely for comment in September. Anticipated that work will begin on report in new year.
- *Company Law: Pre-incorporation contracts*: W.I.H.
- *Crime: Corporate Crime*: Preliminary work being done.
- *Crime: Offences Against the Person*: Preliminary work being done.

Victorian Statute Law Revision Committee (V.S.L.R.C.)

Current matters before the Committee:

- *The Constitution Act 1975*: The Committee has commenced hearing evidence in relation to this

inquiry. A report relating to a Bill of Rights is expected to be presented to the Victorian Parliament in the Autumn Session 1979.

- *Privacy*: Submissions are still being considered but evidence has not been heard as yet.
- *Protection of Animals Act 1966 and related provisions*: The Committee has almost completed its inquiry into the use of steel-jawed leghold traps and a report may be tabled during the current sitting of Parliament.
- *Trustee Companies*: The Committee has almost completed this inquiry and a report should be tabled prior to the conclusion of the current sitting of Parliament.
- *Privacy (Debt collection Agencies—Publications)*: Committee has almost completed this inquiry and a report will be tabled prior to the conclusion of the current sitting.

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

The Commission expects shortly to submit reports on:

- *Insolvent deceased estates* (Project No. 34 Pt. III).
- *Fatal accidents* (Project No. 66).
- *Official Attestation of Documents* (Part of Project No. 28).

New References

The following new references were received by L.R.C.s since October 1978:

W.A.L.R.C.: Review of *Absconding Debtors Act 1877*.

: Review of the Imperial Acts in force in Western Australia at the time of its founding and to recommend which of those still in force should be repealed and which should be re-enacted (whether in the same or different form) by the Parliament of Western Australia.

: Review of *Limited Partnership Act 1909*.

V.S.L.R.C.: Local Government—Pecuniary Interests of Councillors.

Personalia**The Honourable Mr. Justice King**

The new Chief Justice of South Australia is the Hon. Mr. Justice Leonard King, a Judge of the Supreme Court since 1975. His Honour became a Deputy Chairman of the S.A.L.R.C. soon after his appointment to the Bench but has now retired from this position. Between 1970 and 1975 he was Attorney-General for South Australia. During the first two years he also held the portfolio of Social Welfare and Aboriginal Affairs. During the last three years he was also Minister for Community Welfare and Minister for Prices and Consumer Affairs. The new Chief Justice was born and educated in South Australia. As Attorney-General, he pioneered important reform measures, notably in the area of consumer protection and the criminal law.

He unsuccessfully introduced a Privacy Bill into the South Australian Parliament. His interest in legal reform and his confidence in the abilities of judges to meet the challenges of reform were evident in the approach he adopted in this measure, as in several other important reforms he introduced, including the establishment of the S.A. Credit Tribunal.

Mr. Cedric Thomson C.deG.

The new President of the Law Council of Australia is Mr. Cedric Thomson of Adelaide. Mr. Thomson, aged 55, is a company and commercial lawyer. He is a past President of the Law Society of South Australia and was recently appointed a member of the Commonwealth Legal Aid Commission. In South Australia, he initiated the establishment of the Law Society Advisory Service and the Duty Solicitor Service. On his appointment, he referred to the important work done by the legal profession in the voluntary contribution of services not only in the area of legal aid but also in law reform. Under new constitutional arrangements, Mr. Thomson will hold office for one year and will preside when the 20th Legal Convention meets in Adelaide in July 1979.

Professor R. C. C. Cuming

The new Chairman of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan, Canada, is Professor Ronald Cuming. He was appointed Chairman on 1 July 1978 in succession to Professor Brian A. Grosman. Professor Cuming holds the degrees B.A., LL.B. (Sask) and LL.M. (Columbia). He is a member of the Faculty of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law and has carried out extensive research in the areas of consumer credit law and personal property security law.

Mr. Norman Marsh C.M.G.

The retirement in September 1978 of Mr Marsh C.M.G. signals the end of an era in the English Law Commission. Mr. Marsh was the last remaining of the founding law Commissioners. He will continue to be associated with the Commission on a part-time basis to help it complete its project on *Breach of Confidence*. He served for 13 years and had a unique knowledge of civil law systems which are increasingly important for the Law Commission since Britain entered the E.E.C. Most recently he was one of the signatories to the Pearson Royal Commission on Civil Liability and Compensation for Personal Injury, delivered in 1978.

Mr. Stephen Cretney

Appointed on 1 October 1978, Mr. Cretney, aged 42, fills the vacancy in the Law Commission left by the retirement of Mr. Marsh. He was educated at

Oxford where he secured a First Class Honours B.A. in 1959. From 1962 until 1966 he practised as a solicitor in London. He then took up teaching law, first in Nairobi, Kenya, then at the University of Southampton, and since 1969 as a fellow of Exeter College, Oxford. His main fields of interest have been family law, property and taxation. He was a joint editor of *Theobald on Wills* (1971) and wrote *Principles of Family Law* (1976).

New P.N.G.L.R.C. Commissioners

In addition to the new P.N.G.L.R.C. Commissioners noted in [1978] *Reform* 83, two additional Commissioners have now joined the Commission. They are Mrs. Tamo Diro and Mr. Joseph Nombri. Mrs. Diro has been Advisor on Women's Affairs to the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and President of the National Women's Conference. Her substantive office is in the Department of Home Affairs. She is married to Brigadier General Ted Diro. Mr. Nombri was a District Commissioner and is now a Member of the National Public Service Commission of Papua New Guinea.

B.C.L.R.C. Changes

The appointment of Mr. Douglas Lambert as the new Chairman of the British Columbia L.R.C. in Canada was announced in [1978] *Reform* 58. Soon after he took up duties, Mr. Lambert was appointed a Justice of the British Columbia Court of Appeal and resigned as Chairman of the L.R.C. He had been an active participant in the affairs of the Canadian Bar Association and was a Commissioner of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. His membership of the B.C.L.R.C. extended from 1976 until his short term as Chairman in 1978. Counsel to the Commission, Mr. Arthur Close, has advised that Mr. Peter Fraser, one of the Part-time Commissioners, has been designated as acting Chairman pending the appointment of the successor to Mr. Justice Lambert.

Mr. Michael Codd

The Commonwealth Attorney-General, Senator Durack, has announced the appointment of Mr. Codd as a member of the Administrative Review Council. Mr. Codd, 38, was born and educated in Adelaide. He is a Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. His appointment is for a period of three years. It brings the Council's appointed members to nine. The A.R.C. has responsibility under the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975* to keep under review the Commonwealth's developing administrative law. Members of the Council are required by the statute to have extensive experience in public administration or extensive knowledge of administrative law.

Sydney

3 January 1979

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Attorney-General, his Department, or the Commission. Correspondence, information, and views should be addressed to G.P.O. Box 3708, Sydney, N.S.W., 2001, Australia (Telephone (02) 231 1733).

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