

Ontario, Commission on Freedom of Information and Individual Privacy: R.P. 6: *Access to Information: Ontario Govt. Administrative Operation*, 1979.

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

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

- *Defamation*: Report with the Attorney-General.
- *Debt Recovery*: W.I.H. The A.L.R.C. and the N.S.W.L.R.C. are working jointly on a survey of debt recovery actions in the District and Magistrates Courts of New South Wales.
- *Insurance Contracts*: W.I.H. Special project has begun on superannuation. The Commission's Discussion Paper #7 is to be considered at an international conference to be held early next year in Europe.
- *Class Actions and Standing*: Initial meetings with consultants concluded. Discussion Paper on Class Actions expected from printer shortly. W.I.H.
- *Privacy*: W.I.H. Further research papers circulating.
R.P. #7, *Medical Records and Privacy* (Mr. Bryan Keon-Cohen).
R.P. #8, *Educational Records* (Ms S. Pattison), expected shortly.
D.P. #8, *Privacy and the Census*, under consideration in the light of submissions received at public sittings held in all capitals in May and June 1979. Third National Conference on Privacy and Trans-Border Data Flows held in Canberra on 8 May 1979.
- *Aboriginal Customary Laws*: W.I.H.
- *Land Acquisition*: Final draft of legislation under consideration by Commissioners and consultants. Report due late 1979.
- *Sentencing*: W.I.H. Discussion Paper circulating. National Survey of Judges and Magistrates concluded (see p. 55).
- *Child Welfare*: W.I.H. Discussion Paper circulating and first public hearings concluded. (See p. 58).
- *Law Reform Digest*: W.I.H. (See p. 68.)

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

- *Legal Profession Inquiry*: Discussion Papers 1 and 2 on General Regulation of the Profession and Complaints, Discipline and Professional Standards circulating. (See p. 50.)
- *Money Judgments*: W.I.H. Co-operation with the A.L.R.C. (See above.)
- *Unincorporated Associations*: W.I.H.: A redrafted Bill has been completed and is under discussion.
- *Evidence*: W.I.H.: Draft working papers are under discussion.

N.T. Law Review Committee (N.T.L.R.Cte.)

- See [1979] *Reform* 22.

N.Z. Property Law and Equity Reform Committee (N.Z.P.L.E.R.Cte.)

- See [1979] *Reform* 22.

N.Z. Public and Administrative Law Reform Committee (N.Z.P.A.L.R.Cte.)

- See [1979] *Reform* 22.

Papua New Guinea Law Reform Commission (P.N.G.L.R.C.)

- See [1979] *Reform* 44.

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

- Bills have been introduced into the Parliament based on the following reports
Report No. 24: *Actions By and Against the Crown* (Crown Proceedings Bill).
Report No. 25: *Bail in Criminal Proceedings* (Bail Bill).

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

- *Exclusion clauses and implied obligations in contracts relating to the supply of goods and services*: Research completed and a preliminary report expected to be placed before the Commission in the near future.
- *Wills*: Discussion Paper in draft for settlement at an early date by the Commission and its Wills Committee.
- *Insanity and diminished responsibility*: In Committee.
- *Ejectment, Common Law Procedure Act 1854, and Supreme Court Orders and Rules*: In Committee.
- *The Rule in Hollington v. Hewthorn*: In Committee at Launceston.
- *Conveyancing reference*: In Committee.
- *Stock straying on the highway*: Judgement in High Court of Australia, *State Government Insurance Co. v. Trigwell & Others*, still awaited.

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

- *Relating to the Consideration of the Proposed Bill Regulating Company Takeovers*: Report completed.
- Reforming the Law of Locus Standi.
- Simplified Form of Mortgage.

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 Justice Law Reform Committee (V.C.J.L.R.C.)

- *Family Law Act and State and Territory Welfare legislation*. W.I.H.
- *Pecuniary Interests of Councillors*: Sub-Committee's Report to follow.
- *Limitation of Actions*: W.I.H.

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

- **Company Law: *Pre-Incorporation Contracts*:** Report No. 8 delivered to the Attorney-General and awaiting approval.
- **Crime: *Duress, Coercion and Necessity*:** Work is taking place on Report.
- **Crime: *Corporate Crime*:** Work on problems in investigation and prosecution still proceeding.
- **Crime: *Provocation as a Defence to Charge of Murder*:** Working Paper to be issued shortly.

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

Under the new Parliament it is anticipated it will be considering the following matters:

- ***Local Government (Pecuniary Interests of Councillors)*:** Submissions are presently being received in relation to this inquiry.
- ***Privacy*:** Submissions have been received but no evidence has been heard as yet.
- ***Protection of Animal Act 1966 and Related Provisions*:** There are still eight terms of reference to be examined in relation to this inquiry.
- ***The Constitution Act 1975*:** The Committee has heard some evidence in relation to this inquiry and a report relating to a Bill of Rights is expected to be presented to the Parliament later this year.

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

Reports to be submitted shortly:

- ***Privilege for Journalists*** (Project No. 53).
- ***Liability of Highway Authorities*** (Project No. 62).

New References

The following new references were received by L.R.C.s or notified since April 1979:

T.L.R.C.: *Review of Boundary Fences Act 1908*, Commission to consider setting up a committee to consider this reference.

V.L.R.C.: *Deeds*: Request received from Attorney-General for investigation and report into the law relating to the *Delivery of Deeds*.

Personalia**The Honourable Sir Kenneth Jacobs K.B.E.**

The retirement of Mr. Justice Jacobs as one of the Justices of the High Court of Australia has deprived the Court of a distinguished scholar and a humane and effective judge. Born in 1917 and educated at Sydney University, his Honour graduated LL.B. with the University Medal and First Class Honours. He was admitted to the Bar in 1947 and took silk in 1958. In 1960 he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. There quickly followed in succession his appointment to the Court

of Appeal, Presidency of the Court of Appeal (1972) and as a Justice of the High Court (1974). In 1976 he was knighted. His keen interest in reform of the legal profession was signalled by an important address he made in the mid-1960s at the Australian National University, predicting major changes in the legal profession, including the greater development of specialisation and attention to new functions. His recent judgement in *Veen v. The Queen* provides important insights to the proper limits of punishment for criminal offences. His Honour's retirement is understood to be for reasons of ill health.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Wilson

The Attorney-General, Senator Durack, has announced the appointment of the Western Australian Solicitor-General, Mr. R. D. Wilson, Q.C., as a judge of the High Court of Australia. Mr. Justice Wilson, who will replace Mr. Justice Jacobs, has appeared in many major constitutional cases before the High Court and has displayed a keen interest in constitutional issues. The first Western Australian to be appointed to the High Court, he was born in Geraldton, W.A., in 1922, educated at Geraldton High School, and graduated from the University of Western Australia with First Class Honours in Law. He gained his Master of Laws degree at the University of Pennsylvania. A Q.C. since 1963 and the Western Australian Solicitor-General since 1969, Mr. Justice Wilson has been described as one of the best lawyers that State has produced. He is also known to be a keen proponent of federalism. The appointment of Mr. Justice Wilson is the first under the consultative arrangements between State and Federal Attorneys-General agreed to at the Constitutional Convention in Perth last year. Senator Durack said the appointment of Mr. Justice Wilson emphasised the role of the High Court as a national court at the apex of the Federal Judicial system.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Ducros

On 23 March 1979 it was announced in Ottawa that the Governor-General of Canada had appointed Mr. Justice Jacques Ducros, a puisne judge of the Superior Court for the District of Montreal in the Province of Quebec, to be a full-time Member of the Canada L.R.C. Mr. Justice Ducros will hold office for a period of five years from 1 May 1979. He joins a busy team of Commissioners led by Mr. Francis Muldoon Q.C., Chairman of the Commission since July 1977.

Mr. J. J. Spigelman

The retirement as a Commissioner of the A.L.R.C. of Mr. J. J. Spigelman has now been announced. Mr. Spigelman was appointed to the Commission on 19 August 1976 for a period of three years. His retirement was occasioned by his acceptance of overseas responsibilities which he felt were incompatible with continued membership of the Commission. Mr. Spigelman was a part-time Member of the Commission and before his appointment was Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of the Media during 1975. At Sydney University he graduated B.A. and LL.B. with First Class Honours in Government