

■ Distinguished English visitors to the A.L.R.C. during the quarter included The Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor in the High Court of Justice. Sir Robert delighted legal audiences with more of his "judicial temptations". See [1979] *Reform* 17. Four members of the English Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure visited the A.L.R.C. in September. They included Lord Justice Eveleigh and Mr. W. A. B. Forbes, Q.C. (Law Commissioner). Mr. Forbes spent some time in Sydney and Melbourne discussing local police and prosecution practices with appropriate authorities. In Sydney, Mr. Forbes delivered a spirited lecture at the Sydney Law School on the topic "The Stresses and Strains of Law Reform" (5 September).

■ A "must" for all bodies interested in law reform is the recent publication by Professional Books of London of Donald Raistrick's *Law Commission Digest*. The Digest contained, in the words of Law Commission Chairman, Sir Michael Kerr, "a comprehensive summary of the whole of the Law Commission's work . . . giving a bird's-eye view of everything which the Commission has achieved during the first thirteen years." Professional Books are also republishing the English Reports 1220-1865. Address for enquiries: Professional Books, Abbingdon Oxon, OX 14 4SY, England.

■ The A.L.R.C. Report on *Human Tissue Transplants* continues to be studied for implementation in the States. It was referred by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General to the State Ministers of Health. The Victorian Minister of Health has told Parliament that his Ministry "is to a large extent favourably disposed towards the proposed legislation". A Working Party has been set up, chaired by Mr. H. W. Pascoe, S.M. Announcement that the report will be implemented in Queensland gives a spur to the hope for uniform laws on this topic.

New Reports

Australia

A.L.R.C.: 11: *Unfair Publication: Defamation and Privacy*, 1979 (See p. 76).

- : D.P. 11: *Access to the Courts—II Class Actions*. N.S.W.L.R.C.: Annual Report—1978.
- : W.P.: Illegally and improperly obtained evidence, 1979.
- : Legal Profession: Background Paper 1, 1979.
- Q.L.R.C.: W.P. 23: W.P. in relation to an examination of the Imperial Statutes in Force in Queensland, 1979.
- Tas.L.R.C.: Fourth Report to year ended 31 December, 1978.
- : 25: Report on the Second-Hand Dealers Act 1905, 1979.
- V.L.R.C.: 8: Report on Pre-Incorporation Contracts, 1979.
- : W.P. 6: Provocation as a defence to murder, 1979.

Canada

- C.L.R.C.: S.P.: Sanctity of life or quality of life, 1979.
- : S.P.: Access to information, independent administrative agencies, 1979.
- Alberta I.L.R.R.: 32: Report on Guest Passenger Legislation, 1979.
- : 33: Report on Inter-Spousal Tort Immunity, 1979.
- : 34: Report on Service of Documents during Postal Interruptions, 1979.
- British Columbia L.R.C.: W.P. 25: Arbitration, 1979.
- : W.P. 26: Civil Litigation in the Public Interest.
- Manitoba L.R.C.: Eighth Annual Report, 1979.
- : 30: Report on the Confidentiality of Adoption Records, 1979.
- Ontario L.R.C.: Report on Sale of Goods, 3 vols., 1979.
- Saskatchewan L.R.C.: Tentative Proposals for Reform of the Jury Act, 1979.
- : Fifth Annual Report, 1978.
- : Tentative Proposals for Custody Law Reform—Part I: Substantive Law.

Papua New Guinea

P.N.G.L.R.C.: Annual Report, 1978.

United Kingdom

Justice: Annual Members Conference: The Rights of Prisoners, 1979.

U.S.A.

- Calif. L.R.C.: Recommendation relating to Guardianship—Conservatorship Law, 1978.
- : Recommendations relating to Effect of New Bankruptcy Law on the Attachment Law, 1979.
- : Recommendations relating to Confessions of Judgment, 1979.
- : Tentative recommendations relating to Vacation of Public Streets, Highways, and Service Easements.

- : Tentative recommendations relating to Quiet Title Actions, 1979.
 - : Tentative recommendations relating to Assignments for the Benefit of Creditors, 1979.
- Michigan L.R.C.: Thirteenth Annual Report, 1978.
New York L.R.C.: Annual Report for 1979.

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

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

- *Defamation*: Report Tabled. (See p. 76.)
- *Debt Recovery*: Work in hand (W.I.H.). Co-operation with N.S.W.L.R.C.
- *Insurance Contracts*: W.I.H. The Commission has decided to present an early report on the issue of the regulation of insurance intermediaries (brokers etc.).
- *Class Actions and Standing*: Discussion Paper issued. (See p. 79.) Public hearings to be held throughout Australia in November 1979.
- *Privacy*: W.I.H. Report on *Privacy and the Census* with the printer. Expected to be tabled in Parliament shortly.
R.P. #8, Federal Police Records (Mr. K. O'Connor).
R.P. #9, Educational Records, expected shortly.
- *Aboriginal Customary Laws*, W.I.H. Discussion Paper expected December 1979. Research tour of Northern Queensland completed.
- *Lands Acquisition*: Report with printer.
- *Sentencing*: W.I.H. D.P. 10 published. (See p. 84.) The following in-house Research Papers have been prepared on the Sentencing Project:
R.P. #1: An Analysis of Penalties Provided in Commonwealth and Australian Capital Territory Legislation (Mr. J. Gilchrist).
R.P. #2: Minimum Standards for Treatment of Federal Offenders (Mr. M. Richardson).
R.P. #3: Alternatives to Imprisonment: The Fine as a Sentencing Measure (Ms J. A. Scutt).
R.P. #4: Community Work Orders as an Option for Sentencing (Ms J. A. Scutt).
R.P. #5: Sentencing the Federal Offender—Jurisdictional Problems (Ms R. Davies).
R.P. #6: Federal Parole Systems (Mr. M. Richardson).
R.P. #7: Limiting Sentencing Discretion: Strategies for Reducing the Incidence of Unjustified Disparities (Mr. I. Potas).
R.P. #8: *Probation as an Option for Sentencing* (Ms J. A. Scutt).
- *Child Welfare*: W.I.H. D.P. circulating.
- *Evidence*: New reference received. (See p. 74.)
- *Law Reform Digest*: W.I.H.

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

- *Legal Profession Inquiry*: Drafting is proceeding on four further discussion papers and the Commission is evaluating response to D.P.s 1 and 2.

- *Money Judgments*: W.I.H. Co-operating with the A.L.R.C.
- *Evidence*: W.I.H. Working paper on Illegally and Improperly Obtained Evidence is circulating. Four further working papers are nearing completion.
- *Unincorporated Associations*: W.I.H. Discussions continuing. Draft bill is near finality.

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

Matters currently under consideration:

- Access to the Courts (Class Actions).
- Costs in Summary Proceedings.
- Criminal Injuries Compensation.
- The Rights to Stand by Jurors.
- Vicarious Liability—*Lister v. Romford Ice & Cold Storage Ltd.* Employer's rights of recovery as against employee.
- Wills: (a) Interested witnesses
(b) Effect of
(c) In contemplation of marriage.
- Lands Acquisition—Injurious Affection.
- Enduring Powers of Attorney.
- Fitness to Plead.
- Noise Pollution.

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

- See [1979] *Reform* 22.

N.Z. Public 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. 29: 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*: D.P. 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