

Professor L. Chipman (who questions aspects of multiculturalism) and Mr. P.H. Bailey, now Deputy Chairman of the Human Rights Commission. The general thesis emerging from the book is that efforts should be made to raise the consciousness of Australian students about human rights issues, without making the mistake of indoctrinating them in a particular dogmatic view. According to one contributor, Mr. Justice Hope (NSW Court of Appeal) the 'lucky country' has produced a 'complacency, self-satisfaction, almost narcissistic in character. We are continuously looking at ourselves in a mirror, admiring the general blurred picture that our short-sighted eyes see'. This is an excellent collection of thoughtful articles which is well times to coincide with the establishment of the Human Rights Commission. See [1982] *Reform* 21.

■ **capital territory reforms.** Although the Australian Capital Territory may no longer be regarded as a 'hothouse of social experimentation', it was equally important that its law reform needs should not be ignored amidst other national concerns. This was the message of the ALRC Chairman, when delivering the Canberra Day Oration in the Civic Square on 12 March 1982 on the 69th anniversary of the naming of the city. Despite the work of the new Criminal Law Consultative Committee (see [1982] *Reform* 35) Mr. Justice Kirby declared that the criminal laws of the ACT were 'in a shocking state — the product of long neglect'. He claimed that 'it must be frankly said that in the pecking order of national priorities, law reform, including for this Territory, comes rather low'. Mr. Justice Kirby urged consideration of the appointment of a specific Law Reform Commissioner for the ACT, as envisaged by the Law Reform Commission Act:

We should not be content with a city of splendid public buildings set in beautiful natural surroundings but governed by laws that are all too often the product of the years the locusts have eaten.

Meanwhile, the ALRC report on *Child Welfare*, which deals specifically with a contentious issue of law reform in the ACT, is still under close examination by official and non-official committees. The Member for Canberra, Mrs. Ros Kelly (Lab.) told the House of Representatives on 17 November 1981 that the issues dealt with in the report should be 'fully aired in the community'. She welcomed the report and pointed out that the issues dealt with in it were of 'great concern to the people of Canberra'. A major editorial in the *Criminal Law Journal* (Feb 1982, Vol 6, 1) is generally favourable. It claims that the report will 'certainly become a standard text for scholars in this field'. But it expresses the hope 'that its bulk and details do not deter legislators from delving into it also'. The editor acknowledges that there are few aspects of the report which are not controversial:

The most impressive thing about this report is that, unlike many others on the topic, it does not leave the impression that its authors have set out to justify a particular philosophy. Rather it confronts the issues directly, sets out the opposing views, and arrives at its conclusions after detailed examination of the available literature and other evidence. Even if some of the recommendations are *personally* unattractive, the report offers justification for them.

It now remains to be seen whether it leads on to early actual reform of the law but the Minister for the Capital Territory, Mr. Michael Hodgman, is known to be keen to expedite the procedures of law reform for the Territory.

new reports

Australia

- ALRC : *Evid.* : Sworn and Unsworn Evidence 1982
RP 6
- NSWLRC: *IP* : *De facto* Relationships, and Summary, 1981
 : *Bkgd* : Solicitors' Trust Accounts and
P V Solicitors' Fidelity Fund, 1981
- QLRC : *WP 24*: Bill to Consolidate, Amend and Reform the Supreme Court Acts and Ancillary Acts Regulating Civil Proceedings in the Supreme Court, 1982.
- VLRC : *I2* : Provocation and Diminished Responsibility as Defences to Murder, 1982

[1982] *Reform 72*

- Tas LRC : : Sixth Annual Report 1980, 1981
- WALRC : *WP 34(V)* : On Trustees' Powers of Investment plus a Questionnaire on same, 1982
- Institute of Family Studies : *DP 1* : Possible Directions for an Australian Family Policy, 1981
- : *DP 2* : The Family and the Pre-School Child, 1981
- : *DP 3* : Work and the Family, 1981
- : *DP 4* : The Changing Face of Childhood, 1981

Canada

- BCCLRC : *51* : Report on Benefits Conferred under a Mistake of Law, 1981
- : *52* : Report on the Making and Revocation of Wills, 1981
- : *WP 33* : Foreign Money Liabilities, 1982

Manitoba

- LRC : *47* : Report on Prejudgment Compensation on Money Awards: Alternatives to Interest, 1982
- : *48* : Report on Prescriptive Easements and Profits-A-Prendre, 1982

Saskatchewan

- LRC : : Tentative Proposals for a Compulsory Mental Health Care Act, 1981
- : : Proposals on Custody, Parental Guardianship and the Civil Rights of Minors, 1981

Hong Kong

- Hong Kong LRC : *1* : Report on Commercial Arbitration, 1981. See p.

Papua New Guinea

- PNGLRC : *12* : Report on Transfer Pricing Manipulation, 1981
- : *OP 17* : Review of Consumer Protection Legislation: Part 1, 1981

United Kingdom

- Law Com : *112* : Report on Family Law: The Financial Consequences of Divorce, 1981
- : *WP 80* : Private International Law Foreign Money Liabilities, 1981
- Scot Law Com : *67* : Report on Family Law: Aliment and Financial Provision, 1981
- : *69* : Report on the Law of Incest in Scotland, 1981

United States of America

- Calif LRC : : Tentative Recommendations Relating to Holographic and Nuncupative Wills, 1981
- : : Tentative Recommendation Relating to Rights of Entry and Possibilities of Reverter, 1981
- : : Tentative Recommendations Relating to Unperformed Real Property Sales Contracts, 1981
- Michigan LRC : : Sixteenth Annual Report, 1981

Zimbabwe

- Advisory Com LR : *1* : Report on Habitual Criminals and the Indeterminate Sentence, 1981
- : *WP 2* : Aspects of Capital Punishment, 1981
- : : First Annual Report, 1981. see above p. 68.

new references

- NSWLRC : *Reforms in Criminal procedures*: In particular the NSWLRC will examine the special problems of lengthy trials. Participants will include Mr. Justice Roden (part-time Commissioner) and Dr. Greg Woods QC and Mr. W. Robinson (NSW Department of the Attorney-General, consultants).
- PNGLRC : *Corruption and Bribery*: Referred by the Minister of Justice in January 1982, this will examine the Criminal Code and the Leadership Code, with a view to considering new laws particularly on bribery and corruption in dealings between public and private sectors. The possible assignment of some corruption cases to principal magistrates will be considered.

what's going on in the LRCs?

Australian Law Reform Commission

- *Child Welfare*. Report under official and public consideration. See above, p. 71.
- *Evidence*. Consultative documents circulating. Meeting with consultants late March 1982. See above, p. 49. Work in hand (WIH)
- *Aboriginal Customary Laws*. WIH. New full-time Commissioner (Dr. James Crawford) working specifically on consultative paper concerning Aboriginal marriages.
- *Standing and Class Actions*. WIH. Report on Standing expected late 1982.