

In his Hamlyn Lectures in mid-May 1983, the English Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, endorsed a statement by ex-President Jimmy Carter that 'the single purpose pressure group' had become 'the greatest enemy of individual liberty'. Lord Hailsham did not suggest that such groups should be made illegal. Nor did he suggest that it was possible to differentiate between pressure groups with 'desirable' and 'undesirable' objectives. However, he suggested that there was a danger in pressure groups, founded on perfectly legitimate efforts to achieve a particular or social or political objective, tending to lose their sense of proportion. Lord Hailsham's warning was that a liberal democracy can 'if it is careless' be destroyed from within. Only by self-discipline and mutual tolerance will the democratic system survive.

The President of the Right to Life Association, Mr Margaret Tighe, wrote to the *Age* (22 March 1983) protesting at the criticism of single issue politics in marginal seats and castigation of 'single issue zealots' as a 'threat to democracy'. She compared the position of conservationists determined to stop the Tasmanian Dam, with the organisations seeking to save children from abortion. Meanwhile, the bioethical debate continues. Science rushes ahead. Will the law catch up?

new reports

Australia

- ALRC : 21 : Annual Report 1982. See above p.104
- : *Debts RP 1* : Default Summons Survey 1982 (W J Tearle)
- : *ACL RP 13* : ACL: Problems of Evidence and Procedure, 1983 (P Hennessy)
- : *ACL RP 13* : The Proof of Aboriginal Customary Law, 1983 (Prof J Crawford). See above p.109
- : *Foreign SI* : Procedural Immunities and Submissions to the
- : *RP* : 2 Jurisdiction, 1983. (S Curran)
- NSWLRC: *WP* : Transport Accidents Scheme for NSW, 1983. See above p.105

- VLCC : : Report on the Statute Law Revision Bill, 1982-83
- : : Report on the Statute Law Revision (Repeals) Bill, 1982

Canada

- CLRC : *WP 28* : Protection of Life: Euthanasia, aiding Suicide and Cessation of Treatment, 1982
- : *WP 29* : Criminal Law: The General Part — Liability and Defences, 1982
- : *SP* : Criminal Law: Legal Status of the Police, 1982. (P Stenning)
- BCLRC : 57 : Report on the Crown as Creditor: Priorities and Privileges, 1982
- : 58 : Report on Interpretation of Wills, 1982
- : *WP 40* : Bulk Sales Legislation, 1983
- : *WP 41* : Covenants in Restraint of Trade, 1983

Manitoba

- LRC : 54 : Report on Certificates of Lis Pendens, 1983
- : 55 : Report on Structure of the Courts; Part II: The Adjudication of Smaller Claims, 1983

Saskatchewan

- LRC : : Yearly Review, 1982

New Zealand

- NZCLRC : : Report on Bail, 1982
- NZPALRC : : Statutory Powers of Entry, 1983

South Africa South African

- LRC : 6 : Report on the admissibility of civil proceedings of evidence generated by computers, 1982

United Kingdom

- Law : 116 : Family Law: Time Restrictions on Presentation of Divorce and Nullity Petitions, 1982
- Com. : 118 : Family Law: Illegitimacy 1982
- : 119 : Seventeenth Annual Report 1981-1982

Scot Law Com

- : : 74 : Prescription and the Limitation of Actions, 1983
- : : 75: : Irritancies in Leases, 1983

Criminal

- LRC : WP : On Offences relating to Prostitution and Allied Offences, 1982. See [1983] *Reform* 81

new references

- ALRC : *Contempt Law*. See above p.94
- : *Matrimonial Property*. A new reference on matrimonial property was announced by the Federal Attorney-General, Senator Evans, soon after this issue went to print. Full details will appear in the next issue of *Reform*.

- QLRC : *Limited Liability of Partnerships*.

- SALRC : *Delivery of Deeds*.

what's going on in the LRC's?

Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)

- *Law Reform Digest*. The Digest will be 'launched' by the Federal Attorney-General, Senator Evans, at the Eighth Australian Law Reform Agencies Conference in Brisbane in July 1983. For distribution thereafter.
- *Sentencing*. Work in suspension. Hoped to be revived at the end of 1983.
- *Privacy* Work in hand. (WIH). Draft report with printer. Expected to be tabled in Federal Parliament Budget Sittings in 1983. Project led by Assoc Professor Robert Hayes.
- *Evidence*. WIH. Further research papers due on exclusion of evidence and privilege. Mr T H Smith, Commissioner in charge, reviewing numerous submissions and previous research papers. ALRC aiming for interim report late 1983.
- *Aboriginal Customary Law*. WIH. Further series of regional meetings completed together with field trips. See above p.109.
- *Standing and Class Actions*. WIH. Draft report on standing still being reviewed. Expected publication late 1983. Mr B M DeBelle QC is working on draft report on class actions.
- *Debt Recovery*. Project revised under Professor D St L Kelly. Computer analysis of debt processing in NSW being considered. New research paper series commenced. Project to be concluded early 1984. It will be activated end of 1983.

- *Admiralty Jurisdiction and Law*. Consultation with professional organisations. Research work commencing under Professor James Crawford, with assistance from Dr D Cremean.
- *Foreign State Immunity*. Research paper series proceeding. Professor Crawford to have discussions in North America and Britain. Discussion paper expected late 1983.
- *Service and Execution of Process*. New reference. Project commencing under Dr Michael Pryles, new Commissioner. See below p.136.
- *Contempt Law*. New reference. See above p.94.
- *Matrimonial Property Law*. New reference. To be reviewed in next issue of *Reform*.

New South Wales Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC)

- *Criminal Procedure*. Submissions in response to Issues Paper No. 1 are being received and dealt with. The program is being re-considered and it is expected that at least one more publication will be released in 1983.
- *Legal Profession Inquiry*. It is expected that the third, and final, Report on the Legal Profession Inquiry will be published in 1983. The report will cover solicitors' trust accounts, the solicitors' fidelity fund, and professional indemnity insurance for all legal practitioners.
- *Accident Compensation*. WP on Transport Accidents Scheme for NSW has been released. See above p.105. There are still many areas to be covered and further work will include studies on rehabilitation, work accidents and possible changes to the common law, in areas where the action for damages for personal injury remains.
- *De facto Relationships*. Report is completed and with the printer.
- *Community Law Reform Program: Interest on Certain Debts*. Report published and was approved in early April 1983 by NSW Cabinet for implementation by legislation.

New Zealand Law Reform Committees

- See [1982] *Reform* 150 and [1983] *Reform* 89.

New Zealand Property Law and Equity Reform Committee (NZPLERC)

- *Positive Covenants Running with the Land*. Report in preparation. WIH.
- *Share Premium Reserve Dividends*. Report published.
- *Capital Profit Dividends*. Report in preparation.
- *Law Relating to Watercourses and Adjacent land*. Interim report near completion.
- *Law Relating to Landlord and Tenant*. WIH, extended to a review of the substantive law.