

THIRD LAW REFORM CONFERENCE, 8 MAY 1976

The A.L.R.C. has proposed that the Third Conference of Australian Law Reform Agencies (A.L.R.A.C.) should take place at University House, A.N.U., Canberra on 8-10 May 1976.

Australia has no conference of Commissioners on Uniform Laws. Such conferences have existed in the United States since 1892 and Canada since 1918. Through the initiative of the N.S.W. L.R.C. and particularly of its Chairman, Meares J., conferences of law reform bodies have been held in Sydney twice : in 1973 and 1975.

The new A.L.R.C. attended the second conference in April 1975 as did the new P.N.G. L.R.C.

The Conference passed a resolution requesting the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General to assign the clearing house function for law reform agencies to the A.L.R.C. At its meeting in July 1975 the Standing Committee approved this resolution.

The A.L.R.A.C. conference also passed resolutions proposing that Australian law reform agencies should suggest matters requiring uniform law reform projects throughout Australia to the Standing Committee. The motion envisaged that the Standing Committee should then authorise work to proceed towards uniform legislation in selected areas by a number of agencies. Particular matters were proposed as suitable for this treatment, including a uniform Sale of Goods, uniform Defamation Act, a Uniform Traffic Code, recognition of inter-state grants of probate etc. The resolutions were unanimously passed by the A.L.R.A.C. Conference. They were considered at the meeting of the Standing Committee in July 1975 in Canberra. Unfortunately the Officers did not like the proposals and in the result the Attorneys-General rejected them. The A.L.R.C. Annual Report complained to the Federal Parliament :

"An opportunity for significant practical progress in uniform law reform in Australia has been missed. When will it present itself again?"

Invitations will be issued to overseas Commissions to attend. In the present circumstances it is unlikely that travel subsidies can be arranged but this is being explored. University House has appropriate facilities for meetings, dinners and accommodation. It was the venue of a number of weekend conferences at which the A.L.R.C. assembled the Consultants and others working on the urgent police reference.

His Excellency the Governor-General has indicated his interest in law reform and the Conference. It is hoped that he will be able to participate, as he did at the Second Conference. It is also hoped that the Prime Minister will be able to meet participants and that the new Attorney-General will open the Conference, the first held in the National Capital.

Sydney.
7 January 1976.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Attorney-General, his Department or the Commission. Correspondence, information and views should be addressed to the Hon. Mr. Justice M.D. Kirby, Chairman, The Law Reform Commission, 99 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, 2000, New South Wales, Australia. (Telephone 02-231-1733 (Sydney)).



The Law
Reform
Commission
