

by Mr.G.J. Evans, contains a number of criticisms of the High Court's rejection of "relevant material"(Parliamentary history and travaux préparatoires) for the "crabbed English rules of statutory construction". Gone is the polite language of yesteryear. The members of the High Court, the Arbitration Commission and other tribunals come in for stinging attacks throughout the Seminar. One of the remedies proposed by Mr. Evans is legislative action to extend the range of evidence admitted before the Court. Balance is struck by a number of commentators who defend the Court. In answer to the call for "frank politicisation" of the High Court, the present Commonwealth Attorney-General speaks metaphorically. We have a tiger here and his advice to those expounding the view of non-legalism is "Hold that Tiger".

The book contains an interesting paper by Professor Sawyer on law reform in Australia and despite the polarization of debate, is a stimulating text for those concerned in orderly legal renewal in Australia. Published Law Book Co. Ltd., 1976.

The role of women lawyers in law reform is discussed in (1975) 1 L.S.B. 217 and the potential of legal aid to promote, by test cases, actual law reform, is discussed in (1974) 7 Syd.L.R. 237. Mr. R.D. Nicholson, Secretary-General of the Law Council of Australia has outlined the role of professional organisations in assisting the cause of law reform. His article in (1976) 1 L.S.B. 333 sets out a thoughtful and not excessively optimistic summary of what the busy practising lawyer can do, through his professional organisation and individually.

The old debate about "lawyers' law" raises its head again in the 4th Annual Report of the Manitoba L.R.C. Professor Sawyer in the book mentioned above returned to his theme that law reform bodies should steer clear of policy pregnant issues. This is, of course, the exact opposite of what Professor Lyon has to say. Perhaps it all goes to prove that intellectual debate fosters totally divergent viewpoints! Sir Samuel Cooke said recently that his hope for the Law Commission was that "the most socially significant objectives will always have first place in our minds and activities". (1975) 125 N.L.J. 1037. In most commissions in Australia, this problem is solved for us. Although we can propose items for the programme, it is basically up to Governments here, to decide what we will do. Timorous caution might well dictate a retreat to Mortmain. A reference, and statutory duty, may expose a law reform commission to headier (and more dangerous) things.

## New Reports

The following are the reports relating to law reform received by the A.L.R.C. between January 1976 and March 1976:-

### Australia

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|---------------|---|
| A.L.R.C. 4    | : Alcohol, Drugs & Driving; Part I The Problem, Part II Tentative Solutions (Working Paper for Report No. 4) 1976.              |
| N.S.W. L.R.C. | : Proceedings by and against the Crown : Report (L.R.C.24) 1975. 8th Annual Report 1974-75 (Parl. Paper No. 45 of 1975)         |
| Q.L.R.C.      | : A Bill to consolidate and amend the law of succession and the administration of estates : Working Paper (Q.L.R.C.W. 14) 1975. |
| V.L.R.C.      | : Delays in Supreme Court actions (Report No. 4) 1976.  |
|               | : Rape prosecutions (court procedure and rules of evidence). (Working Paper No. 4) 1976.  |
|               | : 2nd Annual Report 1974-75 (Parl. Paper No. 67 of 1975).   |
| V.C.J.C.      | : Sealing of documents : Report, 1975.  |
| V.S.L.R.C.    | : Information Storages Bill 1971 : Report (Parl. Paper No. D.23 of 1975).   |
|               | : Contractors Liens : Report (Parl. Paper No. D.29 of 1975).  |
| W.A.L.R.C.    | : Criminal Injuries Compensation : Report [includes Working Paper]. (Project No. 46) 1975.                                      |
|               | : Section 2 of the Gaming Act: Working Paper (Project No. 58 of 1976.   |
| Aust. R.C,    | : Royal Comm : Government Administration : Task Force on Efficiency : WP : Efficiency in Government Administration, 1975.       |

United Kingdom

- Law Com. : Statute Law Revision : seventh report (Law Com. No. 70)  
(Cmnd. 6303) 1975.
- Scot. L.C. : ibid (Scot. Law Com. No. 40)  
: Damages for personal injuries : deductions and heads of  
claim (Memorandum No. 21) 1975
- Eng. H.O. : Renton Committee : The Preparation of Legislation (Cmnd.  
6053) 1975.  
: Report on the Distribution of Criminal Business (Cmnd. 6223)  
1975.  
: Lane Committee : Select Committee on Abortion (H.C.P. 253;  
1974-5)  
: Computers and Privacy (Cmnd. 6353) 1975.  
: Computers: Safeguards for Privacy (Cmnd. 6354) 1975.
- Royal Comm. : Environmental Pollution 1976, Cmnd. 6371.

Canada

- Canada L.R.C. : Report on dispositions and sentences in the criminal  
process: guidelines, 1976.  
: Criminal procedure: control of the process (Working Paper  
No. 15) 1976.
- Alberta L.R.R. : Matrimonial property (Report No. 18) 1975.  
: Consent of minors to health care (Report No. 19) 1975.  
: Consent of minors to medical treatment (Background Paper No.  
9) 1975.
- Quebec C.C. : Report on Sale (Report No. 31) 1975.  
: Report on Private International Law (Report No. 32) 1975.  
: Report on Suretyship (Report No. 33) 1975.  
: Report on the Domicile of Human Persons (Report No. 34)  
1975.  
: Report on the Name and Physical Identity of Human Persons  
(Report No. 35) 1975.  
: Report on the Family: Part Two (Report No. 36) 1975.  
: Report on Security on Property (Report No. 37) 1975.  
: Report on Property (Report No. 38) 1975.  
: Report on Gifts (Report No. 39) 1975.
- Saskatchewan L.R.C. : Children's Maintenance : Background Paper, 1976.

New Zealand

- N.Z.P.L. & E.R.C. : Reform of the Land Transfer Act 1952: Working Paper No.  
3, 1975
- N.Z.T.G.L.R.C. : Law relating to liability for animals: Report, 1975.

Papua New Guinea

- P.N.G.L.R.C. : Abolition of Native Regulations (Report No. 2) 1975.  
: Punishment for wilful murder (Report No. 3) 1975.

United States of America

- Calif. L.R.C, : Condemnation for by-roads and utility easements:  
Recommendation. 1975.  
: Relocation assistance by private condemnors: Recommendation  
1975.