

## PARTICIPANTS IN LAW REFORM

One feature of the Interim Law Reform Digest is the section containing suggestions for reform of particular aspects of the law proposed by judges and others. This section follows judicial and academic *cris de coeur* over the years concerning the oblivion to which their suggestions for legal renewal have been consigned. Fox J. lately proposed machinery at an appropriate level to process suggestions for law reform. 48 A.L.J. 416. Copy of the Digest has been sent to all Chief Justices. The Chairman of the A.L.R.C. has also written to all Supreme Court Judges in Australia and all Professors of Law in Australasia calling their attention to the new system. There has already been a good response to the letter. Two members of the Court of Appeal in N.S.W., for example, have called attention to the decision of that Court in Peckham v. Moore [1975] 1 N.S.W.L.R. 353. The Court called for urgent attention to the law relating to unincorporated associations. Other suggestions have been received and will be incorporated in the Supplement to this section of the Digest. As well, the Digest will automatically contain any suggestions appearing in the regular legal literature, including that from overseas. There are already a number of such suggestions since the distribution of the Digest in December 1975. Judges and academics have been invited specifically to refer recent and future proposals for reform of the law. Future editions of this Bulletin will contain a selection of them. Preservation of suggestions for legal reform may promote, at least in some part, the consideration of them called for by Fox J. and others over the years. We will collect these ideas and leave them prominently displayed. Hopefully they will prompt legislators to action.

## OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENTS

### The Commonwealth Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Nations, in London, has put out a quarterly bulletin on law reform matters, commencing in 1974. The bulletin contains an epitome of important decisions of the superior courts of Commonwealth countries, together with reference to recent legislation of general importance. All references to Australian material have been particularly accurate and up to date. Those who have not seen this useful quarterly bulletin should secure a copy. It is worth examination. It contains from time to time the addresses of law reform agencies and law officers throughout the Commonwealth. Upon the establishment of new agencies, some details are given concerning their warrants and personnel.

On his recent visit to Australia the Commonwealth Secretary-General, His Excellency The Hon. Sir Shridath Ramphal met the Chairman of the A.L.R.C. As a former Minister of Justice in Guyana, the Secretary-General is keenly interested in law reform and in the Commonwealth Law Bulletin. The Director of the legal division of the Commonwealth Secretariat is Mr. A.T. Fuad. Mr. Fuad has already proved most helpful to a number of Australian agencies in collecting international material on developments relevant to law reform. Address : Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1., England.

### The Law Commission (England)

The doyen of law reform agencies, the Law Commission, has now completed its first ten years of operation. The achievements of the Commission were referred to by the Lord Chancellor on his visit to Australia in 1975. Lord Elwyn-Jones described the first decade as a "notable chapter" (June 1975) Law Institute Journal p.218. In the latest part of the New Law Journal to reach Australia, the present Chairman of the Law Commission, Sir Samuel Cooke, has this to say:

"What, then, have we achieved? There have been laid before Parliament thirty-seven Law Commission reports containing recommendations for law reform. Most of these reports have included draft Bills to give effect to their recommendations. Of these reports twenty-five have been