

"There is always something about your
success that displeases even your best
friends"

Oscar Wilde

If Mr. Hammond in the N.Z.L.J. is correct and the "only criterion is what finally appears in the Statute Books" the above table is instructive. A.L.R.C.5 was tabled in the Federal Parliament in November 1976. It contains a detailed review of the work and methods of the A.L.R.C. But the above information must be read with reservations. Steps have now been taken to implement further reports. Some reports propose no legislation. Some are simply Annual Reports, for which the statistic is not apt. Some reforms are implemented by administrative action. Just the same, the overall picture is a sobering one. In Canada, the Federal Justice Minister, Mr. Basford, has appointed a specific officer of his department to be in charge of "law reform implementation". Recent statements in the C.B.A.'s *National* indicate a growing concern in Canada with the need to process law reform recommendations. If pigeon-holes await law reform reports, a great deal of public money is thrown away. In Australia, the Federal Attorney-General, Mr. Ellicott, has stressed this point many times. More to the point, he has now announced positive action on A.L.R.C.2 *Criminal Investigation*. The Minister for the Capital Territory, Mr. Staley, has also announced the government's support for A.L.R.C.4 *Alcohol, Drugs & Driving*. In New South Wales, there has been a flurry of legislation to implement a number of N.S.W.L.R.C reports which had suffered unexplained delays of up to five years, following presentation. When the schedule above is produced in a couple of years' time, it may look healthier.

New Reports

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

Australia

- A.L.R.C. : *Annual Report 1976* (A.L.R.C.5)
- : W.P. *Consumers in Debt* (W.P. for A.L.R.C.6)
- Aust. Parlt. : H of R Stg. Cttee Ab. Affairs : *Alcohol Problems of N.T. Aborigines, Interim Report*, Oct. 1976
- : Sen. Stg. Cttee Constit. & Legal Affairs. Report on Retiring Age for Cwth. Judges, 1976.
- Aust. I.D.C. : Freedom of Information. Final Report, 1976.
- Aust. Roy. Comm. : Alleged Payments to Maritime Unions, Final Report, 1976.
- : Land Tenures (Else-Mitchell J., Ch.) 1976
- : Constitutional Future of Norfolk Island (Sir John Nimmo, Ch.)1976
- A.C.T. Consumer Affairs Council, Annual Report, 1976.
- N.S.W.L.R.C. : 22 : Coroners : Report on the Coroners Act, 1960, 1975.
- N.S.W. Cttee : Bail Reform 1976 (Mr. K. Anderson, S.M. and Miss S. Armstrong)
- N.S.W. Privacy Cttee : Police as Crown Debt Collectors, 1976.
- : False Records in the Public Service, 1976.
- N.S.W. : Prof. J. Peden : Harsh & Unconscionable Contracts, Report 1976.
- S.A. : His Honour Judge White : Fair Dealing with Consumers, 1976.
- Tas.L.R.C. : W.P. : Powers of Arrest, Search and Bail, 1976.
- V.S.L.R.C. : Vagrancy Amendment Bill, reported 5 October 1976.
- : Criminal Law : Forfeiture of Motor Vehicles : reported 9 December 1976.
- Vic : Board of Inquiry (Mr. B. Beach, Q.C.) : Addenda to Report into Allegations against Members of the Victoria Police, 1976
- Vic. Law Inst. : Report on Trust Accounts, Interim, 1976
- W.A.L.R.C. : W.P. 51 : Unclaimed Money, 1976
- : W.P. 43 : Compensation for Persons detained in Custody who are ultimately acquitted or pardoned, 1976.
- : Annual Report 1976

United Kingdom:

Law Commission

- W.P. 67 : Transfer of Land : Land Registration, 1976
- 68 : Custody of Children - Jurisdiction & Enforcement Within the U.K. 1976
(with Scot.L.C.)

Scot. L.C.

- Memos 24-31 : Corporeal Moveables
- 32 : Comments on White Paper : Devolution to Scotland & Wales, 1976.

Engl. C.L.R.C.

- W.P. : Offences Against the Person, 1976

Eng. Privy Councillors

- Report of Publication by Former Ministers, 1976 Cmnd. 6386

Eng. Home Office

- Report on Cttee on Mentally Abnormal Offenders, Cmnd. 6244
- Working Party on Vagrancy & Street Offences, 1976
- Children & Young Persons Act & Children on Remand, 1976, Cmnd. 6494
- Departmental Committee on Evidence of Identification in Criminal Cases, 1976

Eng. Monopolies Commission

- Report on Two Counsel Rule, 1976.

Scot. Home Office

- Report on Criminal Procedure in Scotland (2nd Report) 1975, Cmnd. 6218

Jersey Company L.R.C.

- Report on Company Law, 1976.

Canada:

- Canada L.R.C. : Permission to Be Slightly Free, 1976. Study Paper.
- Canada : Special Study Group : W.P. On Patent Law Revision, 1976.
- B.C.L.R.C : 28 : The Rule in *Bain v. Fothergill*, 1976.
- Manitoba L.R.C. : 26 : Report on Revision of Birth Certificates for Trans Sexual Persons, 1976.
- Ontario L.R.C. : Report on Changes of Name, 1976.
- Ontario Task Force : The Leasehold Condominium : Problems & Prospects, 1976.
- Quebec C.C. : Report on Legal Personality, 1976 (No. 43)
 - : Report on Registration, 1976 (No. 46)
 - : Report on Administration of the Property of Others, 1976 (No. 42)

New Zealand

- N.Z.C.C.L.R.C. : Report on Effect of Mistakes on Contracts, June 1976.

Papua New Guinea

- W.P.4 : Declaration & Development of the Underlying Law, 1976.
- W.P.5 : Fairness of Transactions, 1976.
- Occas. Paper 1 : The Punishment for Wilful Murder, 1976.

United States of America

- Michigan L.R.C. : Amendment of Admin. Procedures Act (1975) 10 A.R.9
 - : Deferred Payments for Injuries to the Person (1975) 10 A.R. 129
 - : Durable Family Power of Attorney (1975) 10 A.R. 18
 - : Juvenile Obscenity Law (1975) 10 A.R. 133
 - : Review of Venue Provisions of Revised Judicature Act (1975) 10 A.R.20
 - : Simplification & Clarification of the Criminal Code, 1976
- Maine C.L.R.C. : Simplification and clarification of the Criminal Code, 1976
- San Fransisco Cttee on Crime : Report on Non Victim Crime, 1971
- Tennessee L.R.C. : Special Report to the 89th Gen. Assembly on Probate law revision,
1976

Other

- S. Africa L.C. : Report on Right of Recourse to Contributions for Necessaries for Joint Household, 1976