

[1980] Reform 30

- *Insanity and diminished responsibility*: In Committee.
- *The Rule in Hollington v. Hewthorn*: In Committee at Launceston.
- *Stock straying on the highway*: committee report is in the final stages. The Commission report should be available in the near future.

South Australian Law Reform Committee (S.A.L.R.C.)

- See [1979] Reform 93.

Criminal Law Reform Committee of South Australia (S.A.C.L.R.C.)

- *Mentally Ill offenders: Review of existing legislation in relation to these offenders*.
- *Inquiry into Corporate Criminal responsibility*.

Victorian Chief Justices Law Reform Committee (V.C.J.C.)

Committee has decided to set up sub-committees for each of the following purposes:

- To review the matter of limitation of actions for personal injuries.
- To review the procedure for proving prior convictions at the end of a criminal trial.
- To finalise the draft bill relating to Occupiers' Liability.

Victorian Law Reform Commissioner (V.L.R.C.)

- *Crime: Duress, Coercion and Necessity*: WIH
- *Crime: Corporate Crime*: WIH
- *Delivery of Deeds*: WIH
- *Provocation as a defence to Murder*: W.P. circulating W.I.H. on final report. See p. 15.
- *Unsworn Statements from the Dock*: Initial research being undertaken.

Victorian Statute Law Revision Committee (V.S.L.R.C.)

- *Local Government (Pecuniary Interests of Councillors)*: The Committee has commenced hearing evidence in relation to this inquiry.
- *Privacy*: Submissions have been received but no evidence has been taken.
- *Protection of Animals Act 1966 and related provisions*: There are still eight terms of reference to be examined in relation to this enquiry.
- *Imperial Acts Application Bill*: Committee has almost completed this inquiry and a report on this subject should be presented to Parliament in this current session.

Western Australia Law Reform Commission (W.A.L.R.C.)

Commission expects to submit reports shortly on:

- *Privilege for Journalists* (Project No.53)
- *Liability of Highway Authorities* (Project No. 62)
- *Compensation for Persons Detained in Custody* (Project No.43)

- *Admissibility in Court Proceedings of Computer Generated Records and Other Documents* (Project No. 27)
- *Unclaimed Money* (Project No. 51)
- *Defamation*. See p. 12.

A Bill has been introduced which, if enacted, would substantially implement recommendations made in Project No. 14 — Offices of Profit under the Crown.

New References

The following new references were received by L.R.C.s or notified since October 1979:

N.T.L.R.C.: *Suitors Fund*: Reference relating to the establishment of a Suitor's Fund and Appeal Costs Fund.

Tas.L.R.C.: *Debt recovery and debt counselling*: Preliminary discussions have taken place with Consumer Affairs and others. Now awaiting consultation with the A.L.R.C.

: *Rape Reference*: Submissions awaited from womens organisations, D.P. is being prepared prior to public hearing.

V.L.R.C.: To investigate and report on the right of an accused person on trial to make an unsworn statement and to further investigate and report should the Commissioner consider that that right be retained, upon reform of the law relating to the limitations of the right to comment on the fact that the accused has made an unsworn statement.

W.A.L.R.C.: *Animal Liability*: To reconsider a Report on Project No. 11 — liability for stock straying on to the highway in the light of conflicting court decisions in Australia on this topic and legislation passed in other jurisdictions since the Commission reported in 1970.

Obituary

The Hon Mr. Justice C.I. Menhennitt

The death of Mr. Justice Clifford Menhennitt has deprived the Bench of the Supreme Court of Victoria of one of its most experienced judges and law reformers. After winning a scholarship to Scotch College and Melbourne University, C.I. Menhennitt became Master of Laws in 1934. During the War years he was Assistant Commonwealth Director of Transport. Admitted to the Bar of Victoria in 1946 he was soon engaged in a number of leading constitutional cases and appeared before the Privy Council several times. He took silk in 1957 and was appointed to the bench in 1966. For many years he was a leading member of the Chief Justices Law Reform Committee. He attended each of the five Law Reform Conferences held to secure greater co-operation between the Australian law reform agencies. A practical, resolute and forward looking man, he leaves the law reform scene in Australia sadly depleted by his passing.