

contained in it. I commend the Commission for its report, which has been widely praised.

□ *trade practices.* The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs is undertaking an inquiry into mergers, takeovers and monopolies. The inquiry will involve a review of the Trade Practices Act, as well as other legislation dealing with mergers, takeovers and monopolies such as the Companies (Acquisition of Shares) Codes.

The inquiry will have particular regard to s 50 of the Trade Practices Act. Section 50 deals with the ability of a corporation to dominate a market as a result of acquisitions. The former chairman of the Trade Practices Commission, Mr Bob McComas, has said that the existing s 50 could eventually result in monopolies in the domestic market (*Canberra Times*, 29 February 1988).

The chairman of the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Mr Alan Griffiths, has said that the committee will be especially concerned to determine if current legislation adequately protects the public interest (the *Age*, 29 February 1988). The Committee is expected to complete the inquiry early next year.

□ *high risk assignments.* A jury in Houston, Texas has ordered the magazine, 'Soldier of Fortune' to pay \$9.4 million in damages to the family of a woman whose husband hired her killer through a classified advertisement in the magazine. \$7.5 million of the award was for punitive damages. (*New York Times* 4 March 1988)

It was established during the case that Mr Wayne Hearn, who is currently serving three life sentences for

murder, had placed an advertisement in the 'Soldier of Fortune' magazine advertising his services for 'high risk assignments'. Counsel for the plaintiff claimed that the phrase 'high risk assignment' in the advertisement referred to illegal activities which the publishers knew or should have known yet they continued to run the advertisement. Counsel for the magazine argued that the phrase was innocuous and the magazine did not know of any criminal intent on the part of its advertisers and that there was only 'a thin, minute thread' connecting 'Soldier of Fortune' and the killing of Mrs Black. During the case the publisher of the magazine specified that it was a military journal and the classified advertisements were placed mostly by Vietnam veterans seeking work as bodyguards or mercenaries. The publisher said that he had no idea that the advertisements were offering illegal services. He also denied having read several stories in national magazines that linked 'Soldier of Fortune' to at least nine crimes.

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obituary

Sir Victor Windeyer

Sir Victor Windeyer, former Judge of the High Court, has died at the age of 87. Sir Victor, whilst a barrister, established an extensive practice in equity and commercial law and was made a KC in 1949. He stood unsuccessfully for the Senate as a Liberal candidate in 1950. In 1954 he was appointed as senior QC assisting the Royal Commission into communist espionage in Australia. The author of several books on law, he was also a member of the Senate of the University of Sydney and was elected Deputy Chancellor in 1955.

He continued in that office until 1958. He served on the High Court until his retirement in 1972. He is survived by Lady Windeyer, three sons and a daughter.

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personalia

The Hon Mr Justice Malcolm C Lee

The Hon Mr Justice Malcolm C Lee was recently appointed a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia. Justice Lee is based in Perth. He took up his appointment on 15 February 1988. The Federal Court has been one judge below strength in Perth since the resignation of Mr Justice Toohey early last year to take up his appointment on the High Court. Justice Lee, who was educated at the University of Western Australia, was admitted as a practitioner of the Supreme Court of Western Australia in 1964, and commenced practice solely as a barrister in 1969. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1984. He held office as President of the Western Australian Bar Association from 1978 to 1981 and has been a member of the Barristers Board of Western Australia since 1984. He was appointed a member of the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia in May 1987.

family court appointments

Justice Barblett, a Senior Judge of the Family Court and Chief Judge of the Family Court of Western Australia has been appointed the first Deputy Chief Judge of the Family Court of Australia. Two new Judges of the Family Court, have also recently been appointed. They are Judge Alwynne Rowlands of the County Court of Vic-

toria and Judge Peter Moss of the District Court of New South Wales. The position of Deputy Chief Judge is a position unique to Australian Courts and recognises the need for improved administration of what is now Australia's largest court. Justice Rowlands will be based in Victoria where he has been a judge of the County Court since November 1983. He was admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor in 1963 and appointed as a Queen's Counsel in 1982. He practised widely in family law, criminal law, local government law, matrimonial and industrial law jurisdictions. From 1984-1987 he was the first President of the Victorian Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Justice Moss will be based in Sydney where he has been a Judge of the District Court of New South Wales since 1985. He was admitted as a Barrister in 1967 and appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1984. He practised widely in common law and equity jurisdiction. During 1983-85 he was Senior Counsel assisting the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Drug Trafficking in respect of the Nugan Hand matter.

administrative appeals tribunal

Four new appointments have been made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. They are Dr Paul Gerber as a full-time Deputy President, Mr Mason David Allen and Mr Donald William Muller as full-time senior members and the Honourable Edmund Theodore Perrignon as a part-time senior member. Dr Gerber, Mr Allen and Mr Perrignon will be based in Sydney. Mr Muller will be based in Brisbane. Dr Gerber has been a full-time senior member of the Tribunal since 1 July 1986, when he transferred from the former Taxation Board of Review in Brisbane. Mr Allen was, prior to this appointment, a senior member of the Vet-