

Book reviews (continued):

establishment of some of these might be helpful, but some of Professor Weeramantry's suggestions seem to be the type of anti-democratic elitism he elsewhere warns against. What else are we to make of a legislative "chamber of scientists elected from the ranks of scientists by scientists themselves" so that "a scientific measure would have to pass through this legislative house" (p.219), unless he means that it would not matter whether this house passed the scientific measure or not. Professor Weeramantry also suggests that Courts should have a delegated authority to impose moratoriums on scientific activities, but what value could there be in an

unaccountable judiciary exercising this very political function rather than an accountable legislative or executive?

Professor Weeramantry concludes by hoping that "some of the principles discussed ... may provide the basis for a new jurisprudence for science" (p.236) but at least in the area of information technology this is certainly not so. Perhaps he is more convincing in the areas of bio-technology and energy, which occupy a substantial part of the book. In fairness, it is entertainingly written, with a wealth of anecdotal examples, and, at least for the reader not particular familiar with the new technologies, it would make interesting reading.



► Graham Greenleaf



Editorial

I hope each of you reading this first issue of "Computers & Law" finds lots of interest and something to inspire you to write a contribution of your own for the second issue. The newsletter will appear approximately quarterly in 1984. The deadline for contributions to issue number 2 is: Friday 2 March 1984.

I intend to produce issue number 2 by the same printing technique as that used here. Accordingly manuscript presented typed with both edges justified in columns 47/8" or 12.5 c.m. wide may not have to be retyped at all. When submitting manuscripts please specify how you wish to be described as the author.

Looking over the manuscript for this issue I see that almost all the items contributed by outside authors have been written by my fellow lawyers. It would be an excellent development if the computerist members of the various societies contributed more articles for some number 2 and I look forward to receiving manuscripts from you.

Advertisement

Advertisements are welcome and revenue raised will be applied to production costs of the newsletter. We propose to charge as follows: \$50 per quarter page, \$90 per half page and \$150 per full page. Measurements and details of presentation will be provided on request.

Comments and Criticisms

Please don't hesitate to suggest improvement or make constructive criticisms about this inaugural issue. Experience gained for this issue on technical and production problems will enable me to concentrate more on style and consistency in subsequent issues.

Thanks

Many thanks to everyone who helped the newsletter out into the world. My special thanks to David Lewis, Solicitor; to Helen Fitzgerald, Commercial Artist, for Graphics; to Butterworths, for assistance with artwork; and to the Law Book Co. for technical advice and encouragement.

► JILL MATTHEWS
EDITOR