

SUB-COMMITTEE FOR REVISION OF CONSTITUTION

At the fifth Biennial Conference of the Council held in Perth in August 1969 it was agreed that the Council's Constitution be revised. It was resolved that the Council appoint a sub-committee of three members to review the present Constitution and to make recommendations for its alteration and extension to govern more adequately the activities and policies of the Council. The terms of reference of the sub-committee reveal the concern felt by many that the Executive of the Council should be representative not only of all the States and the Commonwealth but also of the fields of the administration of justice, police, prison, probation and parole, voluntary organisations, child welfare and the armed services.

Already the new Executive has received a report containing a recommended draft of a new Constitution and By-Laws. This draft has been circulated to all constituent members for their consideration. In accordance with the direction given at the Perth Conference constituent members are being allowed three months within which to make their views known to the Executive. At the next meeting of the Executive to be held in Sydney on Saturday, 6th June, 1970, all recommendations and submissions will be considered. It is anticipated that a new Constitution will then be accepted.

What are some of the factors that were taken into account in preparing the draft of the new Constitution?

1. The need to produce a simple and workable Constitution.
2. A desire to provide adequate machinery to assist and guide the Council in the election of officers.
3. The need to see that there are sufficient safeguards to ensure that the Executive is representative not only of the States and the Commonwealth but also of the various fields and disciplines encompassed by the objects of the Council.
4. The need to expand "the objects" of the Council in order to conform with current activities and policies.
5. The experience of similar organisations overseas including the American Correctional Association, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (U.S.A.), the Canadian Corrections Association and the Institute for the Study and Treatment of Delinquency (U.K.)

The Constitution Sub-Committee appointed by the Executive (comprising Messrs. A.B.C. Wilson, R.C. Wood S.M., and J.G. Mackay) will welcome the opportunity to consider all submissions and suggestions concerning the new Constitution before the next Executive Meeting. As this is an opportunity to ensure that our new Constitution not only is a workable one but also is truly indicative of the status and vitality of our Council, all constituent members would do well to spend time and energy considering this important matter.