

In this issue

Bar notes

undertakings as to damages
building and engineering list
new scale of counsel's fees
new barristers' committee
European young lawyers
coming events page 4

Computerisation — our servant not our master
by Sir Laurence Street, Chief Justice of NSW ... page 6

Ave Atque Vale
a tribute by R. Meagher QC page 8

The view from across the Dingo Fence
by I.D.F. Callinan QC,
President, Bar Association of Queensland page 9

The seven deadly sins
by the Hon. Justice Michael Kirby, CMG page 10

Famous last words
and all their own words page 12

Right of appearance of Counsel
a Bar Council ruling page 13

Captain Cook slips the painter
a farewell to the Registrar page 14

Published by: NSW Bar Association
174 Phillip Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

Editor: R.S. McColl

Editorial committee: D.E. Grieve QC, H.M.H. Mountford,
B.E. Kinsella

Produced by: Publishing Management Services
3rd floor, 204 Clarence Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
Telephone: 264 9611 Telex: 70508 NEWSY

Advertising: Rosalind Davies
10 Glen Street, Milsons Point, NSW 2061
Telephone: 922 3255 Telex: 70508 NEWSY

Printed by:
Beaver Press, 29 Alberta Street, Sydney, NSW 2000



WHAT THE BAR NEEDS

In the early part of this century an American Vice-President, Thomas Riley Marshall, rescued himself from the obscurity that usually overtakes holders of that office by observing: "What this country needs is a good five-cent cigar."

In one respect time has not dealt kindly with his proposition. Changes in the value of money have produced the result that a five-cent cigar would today be a disgusting article, quite unlikely to be made of tobacco.

Worse still, the recreational practice to which he referred is now widely regarded as acceptable only when indulged in by consenting adults in private. The ash-tray is as useful in polite company as the cuspidor.

Nevertheless, the homespun wisdom underlying the thought is to be admired. It is based on the recognition that to complicated problems there are often simple solutions, and that the remedy to public difficulties may be found at a more private level.

The problems of the bar in 1985 are more than sufficient to tax us. We know well enough what we do not need.

To identify our enemies and declare them anathema would be emotionally gratifying, but politically unprofitable. A more positive solution may be to concentrate upon a revival of our corporate spirit.

A new carpet in the Bar Common Room (tastefully furnished in the style of former President McGregor, indulgently elaborated by Meagher QC, and now in a state of aesthetic collapse) might draw more members to a central meeting place.

There is reason to believe that funds for such lavish expenditure will soon be available. However, the answer to all our problems does not seem to lie in interior decoration.

If, however, an appeal is directed to the mind rather than to the senses we may achieve a result. That is the idea of this publication.

It is hoped that it will provide, on a different level, some of the facilities of the Common Room: a medium for scandalous information; an occasion of privilege for defamation; and a forum for ideas about the Bar.

What the Bar needs is a good free journal. The people who have participated in this enterprise are to be congratulated. Its success could be important to us all.

A.M. GLEESON