

meetings of the Council to keep abreast of relevant law reform developments in each body.

■ Call for reform from the West. In sentencing *Marsh*, Wallace J. in the Supreme Court of Western Australia made remarks now under study in the new A.L.R.C. Reference on Sentencing. *Marsh* was charged with supplying heroin to another. Wallace J. said that virtually without exception all of the young people who had come before him during the last month on drug offences had good characters. This was sad, said the Judge, "and a further sad part about it is that prison is going to do no good to you and, indeed, will probably be positively harmful. I have no option but to sentence you to imprisonment because the Parliament has directed me to do that." For a note on the new Sentencing Reference see p. 64.

■ The printed version of the report of the N.S.W. Royal Commission into Prisons (Mr. Justice Nagle) is now available. It makes gripping reading. The Royal Commissioner pulls no punches. After criticising the former Commissioner of Corrective Services, now replaced, he asserts "the disease is deep seated. The Department as a whole is inefficient, disorganised and badly administered. It has become demoralised. It must be re-vitalised." 252 recommendations are attached, as is a most copious bibliography and history of the prison system in N.S.W., since the early settlement of the colony.

■ The report in the last issue of *Reform* that the New Zealand Law Reform Council had been summoned to meet, was premature. It is understood that notes on forward planning of N.Z. Committees have been sought in anticipation of a meeting of the Council, which may take place early in 1979. An interesting development is the announcement that the Secretary of Justice, Mr. Gordon Orr, is to take up a Chair at the Victoria University of Wellington, welcome evidence of new mobility in the legal profession.

New Reports

Australia

A.L.R.C.: D.P.6: Debt Recovery and Insolvency, 1978.

N.S.W.L.R.C.: W.P. on Evidence of Disposition 1978.

: 29th Report: Evidence — Hearsay 1978.

Tas.L.R.C.: 3rd Report to year ended 31 December 1977.

: 17: Report & Draft Bill relating to the Admissibility of Computer Data in Evidence.

: 18: Report & Recommendation on proposal for drivers who have been disqualified for drink/driving offences to be required to undertake a course before being re-issued with a licence to drive a motor vehicle.

: 19: Report & Recommendations on the Common Law Statute Law in Tasmania Relating to Residential Landlord & Tenant Law.

: 22: Reform of Civil Procedure.

V.C.J.L.R.C.: Sale of Land on Deferred Terms (No. 2).

V.L.R.C.: 7: Innocent Misrepresentation.

V.S.L.R.C.: Imperial Acts Application Act 1922 together with Extracts from the proceedings of the committee and an Appendix.

: Section 44 of the Magistrates (Summary Proceedings) Act 1975.

W.A.L.R.: W.P. Project No. 63: Small Debts Courts.

: W.P. No. 2 Project No. 25: Legal Capacity of Minors.

Law Council of Aust.: Proposed Amendments to section 67 of the Companies Act.

: C21: s.64(1)(b) of the Family Law Act 1975.

: C22: Testator's Family Maintenance & Intestacy & the Family Law Act 1975.

: C23: Family Law — Appeal Costs Fund.

: C24: Appeals from Magistrates' Courts under the Family Law Act 1975.

: C25: Section 62 of the Family Law Act 1975.

: C26: Regulation of Takeovers.

: C27: Costs in Family Law Matters.

: C28: Access to Courts.

N.S.W. Ethnic Affairs Commission: Participation June, 1978. (Rept. to the Premier.)

S.A. Royal Commission into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs: D.P. Education.

: D.P. Cannabis.

United Kingdom

Law Commission: No. 86: Third Report on Family Property: the Matrimonial Home (Co-ownership and Occupation Rights) and Household Goods.

: No. 87: Statute Law Revision: Ninth Report.

: No. 89: Criminal Law, Report on the Mental Element in Crime.

Scottish L.C.: Mem.41: Family Law, Occupancy rights in the matrimonial home and domestic violence (vol. 2).

: Mem.42: Defective Consent and Consequential Matter (Vol. 2).

Institute of Advanced Legal Studies: List of Current Legal Research Topics 26 ed. Feb. 1978.

Justice: Freedom of Information 1978.

- :: C.L.A.F.: Proposals for a Contingency Legal Aid Fund 1978.

Canada

Canadian L.R.C.: W.P. 22: Sexual Offences.

- :: The regulatory process of the Canadian Transport Commission.

B.C.L.R.C.: 37: The Absconding Debtors Act & Bail Act: Two obsolete Acts.

Ontario L.R.C.: Eleventh Annual Report 1977.

Canadian Government: The Constitutional Amendment Bill: Text & Explanatory Notes.

New Zealand

N.Z.C.C.L.R.C.: Misrepresentation and Breach of Contract (reprinted 1978, incorporating further report presented January 1978).

N.Z.P.A.L.R.C.: 11: Standing in Administrative Law.

U.S.A.

New York L.R.C.: Report of the Law Revision Commission for 1978.

What is going on in the L.R.C.s?

Australian Law Reform Commission (A.L.R.C.)

- *Defamation*. Draft report with printer.
- *Debt Recovery*. Discussion Paper #6 circulating. Public sittings and seminars fixed. See [1978] *Reform* 59.
- *Insurance Contracts*. Work in hand (W.I.H.). Draft Discussion Paper with printer. Public seminar arranged November 1978.
- *Access to Courts: Standing and Class Actions*. Discussions with U.S. Attorney-General see p. 66. Research visit to U.S. arranged. Issues Paper due late 1978.
- *Privacy*. W.I.H. 4 Research Papers circulating. See [1978] *Reform* 56 and add new paper #4 Statistical Records: Production of Statistics in the Cth. Govt. Second seminar on Trans-Border Data Flow to be held in Canberra 31 October 1978.
- *Aboriginal Customary Laws*. W.I.H. Field Visit program continuing. See p. 77.
- *Lands Acquisition*. Draft legislation being prepared.
- *Sentencing*. New Reference. See p. 64.
- *Law Reform Digest*. W.I.H.

N.S.W. Law Reform Commission (N.S.W.L.R.C.)

- *Evidence*. Report on Hearsay Evidence tabled 29 August 1978. Copy to be available mid-September 1978.

W.P. on "Evidence of Disposition", published July 1978; W.P. on "The Course of the Trial" with printer.

A number of draft W.P.s on other aspects of evidence law have been prepared and are soon to be printed.

- *Legal Profession Enquiry*. Drafting of discussion papers is well advanced on the subject of overall control of the profession and complaints and discipline. Publication expected December 1978.
- *Unincorporated Associations*. W.I.H.
- *Money Judgments*. W.I.H. Co-operation with A.L.R.C.

N.T. Law Review Committee (N.T.L.R.C.)

The undermentioned matters are currently under consideration by the Committee.

- Absconding Debtors Legislation.
- Access to the Courts.
- Criminal Injuries Compensation.
- Defence of Marital Coercion.
- Drug Laws: Tracing a Forfeited Property.
- Criminal Procedure: Fitness to Plead.
- Criminal Procedure: Notice of Alibi.
- Defamation: Protection of Pre-sentence Reports.
- Mental Health Legislation.
- Recognition of Aboriginal Tribal Marriages.
- Costs: Establishment of Suitors Fund.
- Wills.

N.Z. Contracts and Commercial Law Reform Committee (N.Z.C.C.L.R.C.)

- Sale of Goods: W.P. issued on warranties on consumer goods.
- Secured Transactions: W.I.H. First report presented.
- Insurance: W.I.H. First report presented.
- Set Off: W.I.H.
- Auctions: Ring bidding: W.I.H.
- Contract: Privity: W.I.H.
- Superannuation and Pension Funds: Report being prepared.

N.Z. Criminal Law Reform Committee (N.Z.C.L.R.C.)

- Criminal Liability of Corporations: W.I.H.
- Criminal Evidence: Right to comment on failure of accused or spouse to give evidence: Report being completed.
- Assault and Wilful Damage: Summary and indictable offences. No consideration as yet.
- Perjury: No consideration as yet.
- Bail: W.I.H. Preliminary report presented.
- Self-defence: W.P. circulating.