Comment from Executive Director

Resolution emanating from the Ninth Biennial Conference of the Australian Crime Prevention Council, Sydney, August, 1977 placed obligation on the National Executive and all State and Territory Branches of the Council to publicise the Council and its activities through the media and it additionally required that a newsletter or bulletin be issued on a quarterly basis in order that all membership may be aware of meetings, seminars and associated Council activities being held throughout the States and Territories.

National Executive supported this resolution and directed, via Executive Resolution, the method and manner upon which certain information for publication in any such bulletin was to be channelled to the office of the Secretariat. Suffice it to say that the overall response, cooperation and support to the office of the Secretariat on this particular issue has, to date, proved most disappointing but no doubt this gentle reminder may cause some levels of membership, as well as some Branches, to suffer a pang of conscience and, consequently, commence fulfilling their respective obligation towards contributing items of interest, Branch reports and educational material which would be of value and interest to our many readers.

Introduction of the News Bulletin commenced November, 1977, and now, through the courtesy and valued co-operation of magazine Art Pty. Ltd., the Bulletin is being extended to a quarterly issue of the Australian Crime Prevention Council Journal. As we all know, our Council is a voluntary body made up of volunteers from within the Community. We have no independent source of income at this time, other than limited financial subsidy gained from the Commonwealth and State Governments. Our financial standing therefore leaves a great deal to be desired and for this very reason we record and express our gratitude to Magazine Art Pty Ltd. for their generousity in publishing the Journal without cost to the Council. It will no doubt be appreciated, however, that Magazine Art Pty. Ltd. could ill afford to continue financially sponsoring the Council in the publication of such a Journal without attempting to recoup some of their expenses associated therewith and this they have obviously achieved by the magnificent support which they have gained from business sector of the community, through advertisements which appear herein, and from which the Council does not derive any financial benefit.

Continuation of such publication, if this is your desire, must rest strictly on availability of articles, Branch reports, newsworthy items, letters to the editor, etc., being provided by membership, the Branches and readers of the Journal, so, therefore, we now invite you to commence contributing worthwhile documentation for publication in future issues of the Journal.

Hopefully, such invitation will entice membership, as well as those who are not yet members of the Council, to commence forwarding us worthwhile material for publication herein and which would no doubt prove of value to the citizen who is involved in the practical areas of Crime Prevention and in this respect we place particular emphasis on the importance of the community being made aware of the part each and every one of us play in the field of Crime Prevention, but before this expectation can be successfully accomplished perhaps the Australian Crime Prevention Council has an obligation to outline and inform our many readers a little of the background, as well as the Aims and Objectives of the Council for it is becoming increasingly apparent that the Council is not as well known as that which it should be within the Australian community.

The Australian Crime Prevention Council was formed at a meeting in Adelaide during May, 1960, with its then founding father and President

being the late Judge Rainbow. It was initially comprised of voluntary and Government Agencies together with a group of people who were engaged in the work of prisoner rehabilitation. Since that date the Council has expanded considerably within its aims and objectives and also within membership.

Membership of the Council is nowadays made up from a wide cross section of the community and which includes Judges; Magistrates; both Federal and State Parliamentarians; Senior Police and Prison Administrators; Practising and Academic Lawyers; Forensic Psychiatrists; Medical Professionals; Psychologists; Educationalists; Representatives of the Defence Force; Probation, Parole and Child Welfare Departments; the Trade Unions; Employer Organisations and numerous Representatives of Voluntary Agencies working in the Correctional Field and Citizens of the Community from every known walk of life.

Objects and Functions:

Turning now to the objects and functions of the Australian Crime Prevention Council perhaps we should firstly outline, for consideration of the reader, the objectives of the Council and which are:

To assist and promote the work of Crime Prevention, Corrections and the After-care of Offenders;

To co-ordinate the activities of all persons and bodies interested in such work; and

To provide a forum for the free discussion of all matters of interest amongst those concerned with Crime Prevention, Correction and After-care.

The Constitution of the Council also provides that our Functions shall be:

To offer to all those concerned with Crime Prevention, Correction and After-care an opportunity:

- To improve standards of performance and increase the effectiveness of Crime Prevention, Correctional and After-care systems and techniques;
- To exchange ideas and techniques among lay people and professional workers, people of different discipline orientations, and personnel from the various levels of the Criminal Justice System:
- To develop a better understanding of Crime Prevention, Correctional and After-care problems, needs, programmes and methods;
- To develop Citizens' support for, understanding of, and participation in Crime Prevention, Correctional and After-care activities;
- To make recommendations as to desirable research projects to any National, Commonwealth and State Institutions (including Universities) which are engaged in or are likely to be engaged in correctional research; and
- To improve the laws in relation to public offences and offenders and the procedures by which these laws are enforced.

Our function also provides to all those concerned with Crime Prevention, Correction and After-care opportunity to maintain liaison between all persons and bodies with related objects and functions and similarly it provides opportunity for us to arrange and conduct National conferences, State and Territorial conferences, sectional meetings for the purpose of examining issues, problems and trends related to areas of interest to special groups as well as workshops, or seminars, to examine and through free discussion, to work towards the solution of specific problems of concern.

Before proceeding further, it is most essential at this point to stress that the Australian Crime Prevention Council is purely a voluntary body; it is very definitely non-sectarian and non-political and that when considering the overall future of this Council it must be remembered that Crime Prevention in its Principles and Practice encompasses an entire community and pervades the work of differing areas of the Criminal Justice System in any State of the Commonwealth of Australia, together with citizens. Additionally, and this basic principle must be well taken and adhered to, and that is that the activities of any Branch of the Council must never be seen as attempting to provide alternatives to the official law enforcement agencies. For example, the role of the Police must be clearly recognised. Crime Prevention, according to the dictate of our Constitution, does not mean the marshalling of direct citizen action independant of police activities and it is in our interest and that of society to continue remembering that such a step would be a contribution towards anarchy and social disorder.

Therefore, it must be made clear that the Council represents all aspects of the Criminal Justice System together with Citizen Organisations, who work together, each contributing in their own particular way toward improvement in crime prevention methods through discussion and advice on the development of new methods in the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and in the education of the community about such matters. In so doing, the Council and our respective Branches must look at the total social scene and identify areas where primary action is relevant thus preventing problems reaching a

scale where law enforcement action is needed and where such problems may never be totally resolved.

A council of this nature, and, indeed each and every Branch of this Council wherever it may be situated, must be essentially practical in its work. Our work must not become, nor allowed to become an academic exercise. If ever it does it will tend to lose touch with the practitioners in crime prevention and with the feelings of the general community. The Council must remain in close touch with the field, whether they be Police Officers, Prison Officers, Probation and Parole Officers, Teachers, Youth Workers, Ministers of Religion, the Security and Insurance Industries, Private Enterprise, and most certainly with Voluntary Workers and Voluntary Organisations.

Involvement of the Council:

The Council continues to be very much involved in practical issues, practical issues such as - How does Crime Prevention work? How do we involve a community in reducing crime? What are the effective components of Crime Prevention? How does our Correctional System work with its often conflicting policies on security and rehabilitation? Faced by the dilemma of reconciling these two objectives, does a correctional system in fact reach the goals set for it by government and by the expectations of our society? What can be done in public education towards facilitating more effective Crime Prevention methods? It is clear to any worker in this field that people often do place themselves in a position where they are vulnerable to crime - homes are robbed. citizens are assaulted, children are molested, cars are stolen, vandalism constantly takes heavy toll of public funds, the shop thief continues to cause each and every one of us to pay more for our home requirements, etc. Many of these offences could well be avoided if citizens took greater care and were more aware of what certain aspects of crime prevention meant.

These are just some of the points that a council concerned with Crime Prevention should canvass. Crime Prevention, although one of the primary concerns of law enforcement agencies, must extend its influence so that there can be a better awareness by a total society as to the ways by which the incidence of crime can be reduced.

The reader would, of course, be aware that all societies have some form of social deviance within their structures. No society can ever claim to be a Utopia because of the fallible, unpredictable qualities of the people who comprise it. Human nature will never remain in a total pattern of conformity. If it did, there would be little human progress; few social or technical innovations; no achievements beyond meeting what is required by society in simply maintaining patterns of behaviour regarded as unchangeable. But deviance has another aspect — a darker side of crime and violence and social disruption. It is that aspect with which our Council is concerned and through its work, it attempts to achieve the following:

- A better understanding between Official Agencies within the Crime Prevention Field. Crime Prevention is an objective sought in at least two ways. First, the apprehensive of the law breaker and the application of the sanctions of the law; secondly, taking remedial steps to better educate a community so as to reduce the incidence of law breaking, as well as positive action in the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders in order to reduce the likelihood of further lapses into crime. Police operations and the operations of correctional institutions both aim at the possibility of reducing further offences, yet there can be misunderstanding and opposition unless both groups of officers are aware that they seek the same end. In this instance our Council has brought Police Officers and Correctional Officers, and particularly Probation and Parole personnel, much closer together than they were, say, fifteen or sixteen years ago. The Council has provided a forum for discussion and a means by which there can be an inter-change of ideas resulting in better understanding, a warmer degree of mutual respect and an opportunity frequently to collaborate.
- 2. Secondly, the Council attempts to achieve An Improvement in Standards of Performance in Crime Prevention Areas. Perhaps this particular objective has come through in the past more clearly in the Probation and Parole field and which has utilised the services of the Council to examine the practical aspects of Conditional Liberty. In so doing, the Council's publication on "Conditional Liberty" provided an opportunity for the sharing of ideas from all the Australian States as to how Probation and Parole Services should be structured what resources were needed by way of staff, hostels and training, and the philosophy which should underpin any such development. It is indeed most interesting to see the many areas of collaboration that can be spelt out once the various disciplines in crime prevention state their particular role and objectives against the social background of their own community.
- 3. Thirdly, the Council attempts to achieve The Development of Innovations in Crime Prevention and whilst we would not lay claim in any way to being the only proponent of new methods in crime prevention and correctional and prison after-care methods, we do believe that the Council has given a national stimulus to new thought in this field, and, hopefully, it can now be extended by the in-

clusion and involvement of industry and private enterprise who will no doubt henceforth elaborate informatively upon their involvement in the areas of development of new innovations in crime prevention

- Fourthly, our Council encourages and, indeed requires a continuing Exchange of Ideas and Techniques amongst its membership. Possibly one of the most effective ways of helping to improve any service or industry is through the opportunity of its officers and staff to consider the methods implemented and the ideas adopted amongst services and industry and groups of individuals working in this field in other areas of Australia or overseas. The Biennial Conferences of the Council have enabled lay people, professional workers and persons from different disciplines in the Criminal Justice field, as well as from within industry and private enterprise, to meet together every two years, as well as at seminars and workshops in between the two year period. Biennial Conferences of the Council provide for a full, frank and free interchange and exchange of ideas and techniques between previously mentioned people. Such conferences also enable people from the field of education, community health, child guidance, the Churches and interested citizens to discuss and listen to proceedings which range over a wide variety of topics. Therefore, if any Branch of the Australian Crime Prevention Council is to operate in any way in which tangible, practical results will be achieved, that Branch must consider the establishment of regular forums for discussion which, in turn, help to contribute towards practical solutions in crime prevention. Another aspect to be considered, of course, in this "Exchange of Ideas" is the personal acquaintance which is built up amongst people interested in this field. Most certainly the contribution of voluntary workers creates a better realisation amongst official personnel of the considerable reservoir of assistance and support forthcoming from the community once mobilised and channelled into areas of support. In the same way, seminars and workshops sponsored by the Council can examine, in a shorter time period focused on specific subjects, a number of matters which are of practical assistance in crime prevention.
- Last, but certainly not least, whilst speaking on the subject of what this Council attempts to achieve we would be remiss if a few words were not recorded on the subject of Development of Citizens' Support for our Aims and Objectives. One particular aspect of our Council's operation has been a sustained attempt to obtain greater support from citizens generally for the work of crime prevention, co-operation with official agencies and practical assistance in the field where it is appropriate. Such involvement, on the part of the Council, is not an attempt to obtain unpaid assistance for Government services, nor has it been a step towards obtaining the services of people who could intrude, because of their voluntary role, into the private affairs of other citizens. History reveals that there has always been volunteers within the Criminal Justice System and it additionally proves that many of the educational type developments in the prison and correctional services were pioneered by citizens who were not part of the official system and who were motivated primarily because of a sense of social responsibility and concern for their fellow man. Our Council believes that the same qualities of concern still exist within society and that similar contributions can still be made in this so-called modern day and age by the volunteer in society and which most certainly can be achieved through the development of citizens' support for them in such areas of interest.

Branch Development:

Until the year 1971 the executive structure of the Council was made up of the President, two Vice-Presidents, an Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary and elected representatives from each State and Territory in the Commonwealth. They all worked at purely a voluntary level and only the Good Lord knows from whence they derived their funds and financial support!

At the 6th Biennial Conference of the Council, held Brisbane, August, 1961, the then President of the Council, the Honourable E. M. Bingham, M.H.A., said, in speaking of the future of the Council as he saw it then:

"One of the things the Council ought to do in the next couple of years is to undertake an active and purposeful effort to forge links with members of the community outside of the present organisation. It will need to take up the provisions of the Constitution relating to Regional Branches . . . There is a firm obligation on members of the Executive to undertake this activity and to spread the efforts of the Council at a local level. I believe this is of first importance."

Considerable progress was soon made in responding to the challenge which Mr. Bingham presented and which resulted in formation of Branches in every State and Territory in Australia.

The Victorian Branch of the Council was formed in October, 1971; South Australia, January, 1972 and which was followed closely by New South Wales in February, 1972. The Northern Territory established its Branch of the Council during November, 1972 and Western Australia

formed its Branch in February, 1973. The Australian Capital Territory Branch, as well as the Tasmanian Branch were both formed during July, 1973. Last, but certainly not least, the very strong and progressive Queensland Branch of the Council, and which is now leaded by the Honourable Mr. Justice M. B. Hoare, C.M.G., was formed on the 30th January, 1976.

Branch Finances:

As each Branch has been established the National Executive has approved a cash advance of \$200.00. Thereafter, each Branch must financially maintain itself and they derive limited income by way of very limited public subscription from time to time; from occasional registration fees at public seminars and conferences and by continued support from within hard working devoted Branch committees and membership who have absolutely nothing to gain but a lot to give in terms of personal effort, time and sacrifice.

The Secretariat

During 1974 it became very evident to the National Executive and Membership that the administration of Council affairs had become just too burdensome for it to continue to be administered strictly at the voluntary level and that all such administrative activities would have to be centralised, co-ordinated and controlled from within one administrative unit. In consequence, the Secretariat of the Council was established during June, 1975, with a very limited staff of an Executive Director and steno-secretary.

National Membership:

The first official issue of the National Membership Register of the Council was prepared at the offices of the Secretariat and circularised therefrom during the financial year 1976/77. Subsequently, the 1977/78 Membership Register has also been published and circularised and copies of same are available for perusal through all Branch Hon. Secretaries.

Membership of the National Organisation automatically gives each respective member membership of the Branch of the Council in his/her State or Territory and vice versa, after consideration is given to application (for new membership) by the National Executive.

The financial year of the Council runs from the 1st July through to 30th June. Annual membership subscription rates are as follows:

Life Associate Mem pership is \$100.00.

One particularly disappointing factor insofar as it relates to Membership subscriptions, and as far as the writer is concerned, is that within a national organisation representing citizens in the community and who are involved at many and various levels in the practical area of Crime Prevention, we have only three Life Associate Members of the Council and who, we may add, have only been gained as the first such Life Associate Members during this past year.

Life Associate Membership has a cost factor (subscription) of \$100.00 associated therewith and when considering that any such subscription is tax deductible in the assessment of a donor one should like to believe that there must be numerous leading members of society, in industry and organisations who should be happy to make such donation/ subscription, once in a lifetime, particularly moreso if they genuinely believe in the involvement of volunteers in the field of Crime Prevention. Sadly, this has not been revealed to be so to date and we suggest that Branches ought to make concerted effort to gain subscription for Life Associate Membership from many of the mentioned people and who, by such subscription, will then be revealed not only in the National Membership Register, but also within the wide circulation of our National Journal, as responsible people and organisations who believe that Crime is Everybody's Business as well as revealing by such limited financial support that they also believe in the involvement of the volunteer in their commendable efforts to re-educate the public to accept that they also have a part to play in society's sadly neglected area of public participation in Crime Prevention.

Annual reminder notices of membership subscriptions are forwarded out to every recorded member from the offices of the Secretariat during April/May. Fifty per cent of all membership subscriptions so received is then reimbursed on a monthly basis to each respective Branch so, factually, income derived from annual membership subscription is almost negligible (in terms of comparative expenditure required for the maintenance and upkeep of the National Secretariat.

Deductions Under Income Tax Assessment Act:

The Deputy Commissioner of Taxation, Australian Taxation Office, vide his authority AF.1595C SF.1747 of the 17th November, 1977 provides the authority for gifts of \$2.00 and upwards to the Australian

Crime Prevention Council to be allowable deductions in the assessments of donors under the provisions of Section 78 (1) (a) (ii) of the Income Tax Assessment Act.

The National Constitution:

Copy of the Australian Crime Prevention Council's Constitution may be obtained by communicating with the offices of the Secretariat.

The Constitution is currently under review and which, hopefully, time and finances permitting, will be finalised during the Tenth Biennial Conference of the Council to be held Wrest Point Hotel, Hobart, Tasmania, 13th to 18th August, 1979.

Biennial Conferences of the Council:

Biennial Conferences of the Australian Crime Prevention Council are held, usually during the month of August every two years. Such Conferences and associated general meetings continue to be progressively held in each capital city of Australia.

Conferences held to date have been as follows:

First National Conference held University of Adelaide, Adelaide between 18th and 21st May, 1960.

Second National Conference held University of N.S.W., Kensington, N.S.W. between 19th and 23rd February, 1962.

Third National Conference held Christ College, University of Tasmania, Hobart between 25th and 29th January, 1965.

Fourth National Conference held Bruce Hall, Australian National University, A.C.T. between 25th August and 1st September, 1967.

Fifth National Conference held Kingswood College, Perth between 16th and 23rd August, 1969.

Sixth National Conference held Women's College, University of Queensland, Brisbane between 14th and 20th August, 1971.

Seventh National Conference held at the School of Architecture, University of Melbourne, Victoria between 11th and 17th August, 1973.

Eighth Biennial Conference held Flinders University, Adelaide between 20th and 27th August, 1975, and which had as its theme "Kids and Crime". Copy of such publication is available for purchase from the Secretariat.

Ninth Biennial Conference held International House, University of Sydney, N.S.W. between 11th and 17th August, 1977; the theme of such Conference being "Society at Risk". Publication of proceedings from this Conference has yet to be finalised.

The Tenth Biennial Conference of the Council is now proposed to be held in Hobart, Tasmania between the 13th and 18th August, 1979 and which may have as its theme "Crime Trends and Crime Prevention Strategies" — taken from one item of Agenda Topics of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders which will be held in Sydney between the 25th August and 5th September (inclusive) 1980.

The National Executive (and Secretariat) is responsible for funding National Biennial Conferences and meetings of the Council and which usually includes attempting to provide sufficient finances to cover costs of expenses associated with bringing at least one overseas "keynote" speaker to Australia to attend such conferences. Such well known authorities in the past have included — Mr. Torsten Eriksson, Director, General National Swedish Correctional Administration; Dr. John Robson, formerly Secretary for Justice, New Zealand and now lecturer in criminology at Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand; Such Leon Radzinowicz, former Director of the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University, U.K.; Dr. Ivan Sceier, Ph.D., Director of National Information Centre on Volunteerism, Colorado, U.S.A.; His Honour Judge H. Litsky, LL.B. M.S.W., Family and Juvenile Courts, Calgary, Canada; Dr. Gerhard Mueller, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, United Nations Organisation; Brigadier General Wayne Jackson, Chief of the Federal Probation Service, U.S.A.

Council Publications:

As well as volumous printed and published reports covering Biennial Conferences of the Council (and which are available at cost price through the offices of the Secretariat) the Council is responsible for printing and publishing Branch Seminar Reports and which are far too numerous to spell out herein.

One particular report, however, and presented by the Victorian Branch of the Council and under the title of "Studies in Shoplifting" (edited by Associate Member Dennis Challenger, 1977) has already proven its worth, not only within the overall level of Council membership but also within the rapidly emerging Security Industry in Australia. Copies of such report are available, at cost, through the Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Branch of the Council, Ms. C. McKinna, C/- Department of Social Science, Melbourne State College, Carlton. Victoria, 3053. Cost \$3.00 (\$3.60 posted).

Appointment of Auditor:

Whilst all our accounts are subject to Commonwealth Government (Treasury) oversight the Council's official auditor is Mr. W. J. Maxwell, F.C.A., Chartered Accountant, 26 O'Connell Street, Sydney, N.S.W., and who is obligated to carry out full audit of Council books and accounts annually.

The Council's Hon. Treasurer also oversights Council's finances, accounts and expenditure, usually on an average of once per month and reports accordingly on such state of affairs to all Management and National Executive meetings.

At the close of business each month an up-to-date explanatory Statement of Accounts is forwarded to all Members of the Management Committee.

Council Finances:

The present income of the Council consists of three main sources:

a) The Commonwealth Government Grant - \$28,000

Some four years ago the Council made application to the Commonwealth Government for financial assistance to be given to the Council to allow it to continue and expand upon its valuable work within the community.

The Government, at that time, eventually approved payment of a three year recurring Grant of \$28,000 per annum but, in so doing, very definitely stipulated that their approval of such allocation of funds was not to be in any way seen as being one of a permanent nature after the three year period time expired.

The economic position and associated problems suffered within Australia over this past two to three years does not have to be elaborated upon for such economic depression is now part of history and well known to all of us; however, with the expiration of the initial three year Commonwealth Government Grant the National President, the Honourable Mr. Justice Muirhead made urgent representation to Government for consideration to be given for extension of the Grant for a further three year period. The President also asked that the initial annual allocation of \$28,000 be increased considerably in order to meet our financial commitments of the day.

After much deliberation on this application, as well as continuing exhaustive submissions, correspondence and representations, the Commonwealth Government agreeably extended the Grant for one year only (1977/78) and at the level of \$28,000 only.

Application has again been made to the Commonwealth Government to consider allocating the Council a further Grant for the fiscal year 1978/79 but the outcome of this particular submission and associated representations is not officially known at time of writing

b) State Government Grants/Subsidies to the Council - \$5,350

The Council has no guarantee of permanent continuation of State Governments allocation of Grants or Subsidies but, to date, each respective State Government has made an annual allocation of funds. Procedure required in order to gain such allocations is that the Secretariat makes application to respective authorities at the commencement of each new financial year for such allocation to be made.

The break-up of Grants/Subsidies received from each State Government is as follows:

New South Wales	\$1,000	
Queensland	\$1,000	
Victoria	\$1,000	
Western Australia	\$ 850	
South Australia	\$ 750	
Tasmania	\$ 750	\$5.350

For the financial year 1977/78 the Tasmanian State Government very generously increased their previous Grant from \$250 per annum to the figure as shown above (\$750).

c) Membership Subscriptions - Approximately \$2,000

Subscriptions, insofar as it pertains to income may only be classified as variable and is strictly dependant upon subscriptions which may or may not be paid annually, but it is estimated at about \$2,000. (It may previously have been noted that 50% of all membership subscriptions collected is returned to respective Branches on a monthly basis.)



"Bless you, sir—it's for the prisoners' wives!"

Definition of a Committee: A body of men that keeps Minutes and wastes hours.



(Propr. Bill Pettigrew)

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