

**Co-Opted Members' Reports  
Presented to National Council  
Meeting held 6th August, 1978**

**CRIMINOLOGY**

(Mr. D. Biles, Criminology Representative on the National Executive, Australian Crime Prevention Council. Mr. Biles is Assistant Director (Research) at the Australian Institute of Criminology.)

The Australian Institute of Criminology has suffered relatively severe cut-backs in its budget and staff ceiling, but has so far been able to maintain a high level of research and training activities. This level may be reduced in the future.

Current research project being conducted within the Institute include:

- Crime patterns and trends in Australia
  - Principle of Sentencing
  - Drugs and Crime
  - Long-term prisoners
  - Police Unions and Police Administration
  - White Collar Crime
  - Prison Classification
  - Juvenile Justice — Committal for Trial
- plus CINCH service, Australian Prison Trends, Juveniles under direction, etc. etc.

Several books have either been published or will shortly be published.

Training activities in 1978 are substantially related to the U.N. Congress agenda, but also include Violence and the Media, etc.

In the past 5 years the Criminology Research Council has funded 44 separate projects, 14 of which have been completed. Annual reports of A.I.C. and C.R.C. are soon to be published and will provide full details.

Apart from A.I.C. and C.R.C., teaching and research in criminology is flourishing in the universities, particularly in Melbourne (3 universities) and Sydney. The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology continues to be published quarterly and is commended to all members of the Australian Crime Prevention Council.

**POLICE**

(Superintendent J. J. Webberley, Q.P.M., J.P. — Representative for Police in Australia on the National Executive, Australian Crime Prevention Council.)

I am submitting a brief summary report as co-opted member representing Police on the Australian Crime Prevention Council as required by Mr. Justice Muirhead.

I would like to state that during the past year I have been in contact with every State Commissioner of Police throughout the Commonwealth of Australia for the purpose of obtaining from them any constructive suggestions that could be made that would assist in reducing or helping to reduce the rapidly increasing crime rate throughout this country.

The response, generally speaking, from the Commissioners or their crime services officers, although not overwhelming was very good.

Briefly, the main issues that were forwarded to me for presentation before A.C.P.C. were not necessarily in order of importance but the general pattern showed that the adoption of buildings being erected, such as factories and offices, should be made burglar-proof. This would save insurance companies many millions of dollars annually, but I personally feel that such a programme, although it has merit, would be so costly that future owners would not at this stage of our financial situation spend such a large sum of money.

A matter that has been causing concern amongst Police officers in their State is the mental trauma of sexual assault victims which should be given much consideration. It is felt in some States, including Queensland, that the aspect of imprisonment is having little value as regards the prevention of crime.

A suggestion which came from South Australia is that mandatory prison sentences should be imposed on all offenders who carry or unlawfully use fire-arms. A further matter of concern is the easy availability of pornographic material to the public. The way it is advertised and placed on public display. It is felt that this is a contributing factor in some cases in sexual crimes by male offenders who have a mental weakness in this direction.

The unemployment situation which is increasing rapidly is without doubt a big factor in our rapidly increasing crime but there does not seem to be any easy solution to this problem.

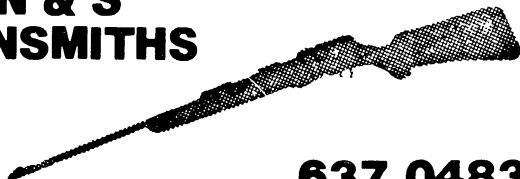
There have been other matters brought to my notice by Police officers in the various States which are actually too numerous to convey in a brief report, but nevertheless, in some cases, have much merit.

In every State the greatest concern is the drug problem which seems to be like a cancer within our midst and although every State Police Drug Squad is working at top gear the problem seems to increase annually.

In conclusion, I would like to state, as Police Representative on this Council, that our effort to reduce our present crime situation becomes almost negative unless it is given full publicity as to what we are endeavouring to achieve and this should be done through the news media, such as television, radio and newspapers, to bring these matters home forcefully and to enable the various governments to assist us in our cause.

I would also like to state that Mr. John Purcell, the Executive Director, has been extremely co-operative to me with correspondence and other means of communication when I have required his assistance.

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