

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I foreshadowed in my Foreword to the issue of "Forum" published in April last, the National Executive met in Melbbourne on Saturday 19 April, 1980. It was my first National Executive Meeting. I found it interesting, instructive and rewarding. It was essentially a happy and constructive meeting. I am sure I speak for all members present when I say how very much we appreciated the careful planning and the hospitality of the Victorian Branch, who did so much to ensure the success of the meeting, as well as arranging for a visit and tour of Pentridge Gaol on the morning of Sunday, 20 April and a luncheon afterwards. I found this visit of very great interest, particularly following the Enquiry I was commissioned to conduct into the Tasmanian Prison System some four years ago, arising out of which I had spent a day inside the Yatala Prison here in Adelaide.

I propose here to summarise and to report some of the Resolutions which came out of the Executive meeting.

It was resolved that the Meeting record its sincere appreciation of the part played by Mr. Phil Donnelly in the very great success of the Tenth Biennial Conference held in Hobart in August 1979.

It was resolved to appoint a Constitution Amendment Committee consisting of myself, Ms. Sybil Hardie and Mr. Peter Johnson. Two questions were referred to that Committee —

- the qualification, as far as length of membership of A.C.P.C. is concerned, of co-opted members of the National Executive; and
- 2) the co-option or ex officio appointment of the Immediate Past President of the Council to the National Executive.

Victims of Crime: Judge Newman spoke to the South Australian Branch Agenda item. After some keen debate the Executive resolved — "That the principle embodied in the letter from the South Australian Branch be accepted by this meeting and that this decision be communicated to all Attorneys

General and copies sent to all State Branches." As a corollary to this Resolution, Mr. David Biles commended to the meeting (as I do to the Branches and to all members) the Australian Institute of Criminology publication "Restitution to Victims of Crime".

The Executive resolved that the Council support in principle research in Australia into "The Fear of Crime", and that we support, and urge all Branches to work in co-operation with, the Australian Institute of Criminology in carrying out the proposed research programme.

The Executive discussed at length the importance of this Council being represented at the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Caracas. Failing Federal funding for an accredited delegate from this Council, as part of the Australian contingent to attend this Congress, it was resolved to request the Federal Government that Mr. Peter Loof represent our interests at the Congress.

The Executive expressed great concern at the apparent lack of communication and liaison between Branches. All Branches are urged to send copies of all Branch Minutes to the Executive Director, if this is not already being done.

The Executive discussed, in turn, all the Outstanding Resolutions from the Tenth Biennial Conference. Branches were either proceeding, or will proceed, to implement Resolutions 2 and 3. It was apparent no action would be taken, at Branch level, concerning Resolutions 5, 6, and 8. There was a long debate concerning Resolution 7. It was resolved that — "This Council is of the view that it is highly desirable for persons employed in the helping or controlling professions (e.g. education, welfare, police, probation and parole officers) to have work experience in varied fields so as to increase their maturity and effectiveness." It was further resolved that the consent of the mover and seconder of Resolution 7 be sought and that this modified Resolution be referred to the next Biennial Conference.

The Executive was particularly interested to receive the Report from Mr. W.K. Nicholl S.M., of the plans already made by the A.C.T. Branch for the *Eleventh Biennial Conference* to be held in *Canberra* from *Monday 31 August to Friday 4 September* 1981 in Bruce Hall, A.N.U. Registrations will be made on Sunday 30 August 1981. I look forward to seeing you all there. Please support the Council and the A.C.T. Branch in making this Conference a resounding success.

(Judge) R.W. GRUBB National President