



FOREWORD

**By His Honour
Judge R.W. Grubb,
National President**

In all probability, and sad to say, this may well be the last issue of this excellent journal. It may be, therefore, that this will be my last opportunity of communicating directly with the far-flung, general membership of this Australian Crime Prevention Council. So, it is, for me at least, a day for some sorrow and very much concern.

The Commonwealth Axe has fallen! In spite of my arguments and urgent pleas; in spite of the cogent and spirited support I received from The Honourable Mark Hoare, C.M.G., of Brisbane; from The Honourable Mr Justice Slattery of Sydney; from Their Honours Judge Kevin Hammond, of Perth and Judge Don Brebner, of Adelaide; and from the redoubtable Frank Hayes, A.M., our Honorary Secretary; in spite of all that, the Honourable the Attorney-General for the Commonwealth, Senator Gareth Evans, remained unmoved. His edict remained — "The A.C.P.C. Council has not justified its right to exist!" Commonwealth funds will no longer be provided for us to maintain our Secretariat.

In the face of that apocalyptic decision, it is with the greatest regret that the Management Committee agreed we had no option but to terminate our employment of our first and only Executive Director, the indefatigable John Purcell, Vale, John — and our grateful thanks for all you have done (often quite unaided) to maintain the Secretariat and to further the National concept of this Council. We remain, as always, indebted to you.

We have, with equal regret, set in motion the steps required to disband the Secretariat and wind-up its affairs. As you can imagine this brings no joy to any of us.

I am confident our active and enthusiastic Branches of A.C.P.C. in Western Australia, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales will continue to work for the cause of Crime Prevention and to flourish. The immediate problem will be to determine how, and by what means, the honorary National Officers of the Council will be able to maintain the machinery necessary for the existence of a National Honorary Secretariat. A knotty problem. Of immediate concern to all of us is how to go about (and again, by what means) calling the very necessary meeting of the National Executive.

Ultimately, the future of this Council, as a National entity, can only be resolved by members in General Meeting. The next such meeting is presently fixed (I presume) for Melbourne, on Friday, 30 August 1985. I trust each one of you will find this an additional and most important reason for your resolution to attend the 13th (is that an omen?) Biennial Conference and Meeting in Melbourne from 26 to 30 August 1985. There will then be fundamental decisions to be made by all of us.

I hope to speak for you all when I stress the vital impor-

tance of a national entity for A.C.P.C. To make the point, I feel I can do no better than to quote a passage from the letter His Honour, Mr Justice Slattery, wrote to Senator Evans when we were all begging for continued funding —

"The national composition of the Council however is a central issue to everything that we are doing. It helps its members in our State to remain in touch with other regional groups within Australia. It enables our Council to have a much needed national identity. With greater funding I can assure you that more of the things that are sought in the crime prevention field could be brought about by a national secretariat that can function so as to accomplish these objectives."

ROY GRUBB

Since receipt this Foreword from Judge Grubb the discharge of J.H. Purcell has taken place with his retirement being effective 17 December 1984. Judge Grubb has also received advice from Dennis Challenger that the Victorian Branch will not now host the Thirteenth Biennial Conference in 1985 so, for all intent and purpose, that Conference is now cancelled. — Ed.



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