

presumption would arise in the case of claims for contribution between joint tortfeasors.

Question 6. This matter was not finally decided by the High Court, but, in the opinion of the committee, it should be put beyond doubt and the position left as it is now believed to be.

Question 7. The committee thought it desirable to put it beyond doubt that the cover extends, not only to the case where proceedings are taken against the personal representatives of the owner, (or driver), but also in the case where proceedings are taken against the surviving driver (or owner) of the vehicle.

Question 8. In view of the matters referred to above, the committee considered that this amendment was both necessary and desirable.

Question 9. The committee considered, that, although this involved the question of retrospective legislation, and although the Council had always been opposed to legislation having retrospective effect, in the peculiar circumstances of this case, namely, that a firmly held belief of the profession, which was for many years acted upon, had suddenly been found to be wrong, was sufficient ground to justify retrospective legislation where otherwise persons would be deprived of an action irretrievably.

The conclusions which were reached by the Bar Council's committee were, in pursuance of a wish expressed by the Attorney-General, discussed with a sub-committee of the Law Society of New South Wales consisting of Mr. Tillam and Mr. Dunlop, who provided the committee with a copy of their report. In all respects the two committees appeared to be in agreement.

The results of the committee's deliberations were in due course transmitted to the Attorney-General, and have been placed before the Permanent Law Reform Committee which has to deal with the problems raised by this case, as being the considered views of the Bar Council.

The Medico-Legal Society of New South Wales

At a well-attended meeting of the Society held on 21st February, 1962, at the Robert H. Todd Memorial Hall, the President of the Bar Association, Meares Q.C., presented a paper entitled "What is the proper method of determining medical issues in personal injury cases?" The paper produced a very stimulating discussion led by Dr. W. D. Sturrock, in which Judges as well as practising members of both professions took part.

The next meeting of the Society will take place on 9th May, 1962, at the same place when Dr. Zelman Freeman, M.R.C.P. (Lond.) M.R.C.P. (Edin.), will present a paper on "Heart Disease in Industry". The principal commentator will be Samuels of the Bar. Members of the Bar are invited to attend.

International Commission of Jurists Australian Section

The Secretary-General of the Commission, Sir Leslie Munro, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., visited Australia with Lady Munro from the 16th to 27th March, 1962. Sir Leslie, whose headquarters are in Geneva, is at present in the course of a three month mission to Asia and Australia.

The purpose of the mission is to study legal developments in some fifteen countries of the Far East and to meet members of the legal community and government officials. By the end of his mission, Sir Leslie will have visited East and West Pakistan, India, Ceylon, Burma, Thailand, Malaya, Indonesia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Viet-nam, Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, Japan and Hong Kong.

Sir Leslie, who was President of the United Nations General Assembly during 1957-1958, has had a most distinguished career. He was New Zealand's Ambassador to the U.S.A. and Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1951-1958. In 1958, the General Assembly appointed him its Special Representative to report on the position in Hungary. At various times, Sir Leslie has been, amongst other things, a practising lawyer, university lecturer in law, newspaper editor, author, and radio commentator on international affairs.

In Australia, Sir Leslie and Lady Munro visited Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. They met the State Governors, the Prime Minister, Judges, practising lawyers and law teachers. In Sydney, Sir Leslie addressed a public meeting at the Todd Memorial Hall and attended a late-afternoon cocktail party at the Hotel Australia. In the other States, he addressed well attended meetings of the State Branches of the Australian Section.

The Australian Section has been for some time carrying out a survey of the facilities available in Australia and the Territories for accused persons who have language difficulties. Many experienced Judges, Magistrates and Counsel have made valuable contributions and suggestions in connection with the survey. The survey is nearing completion and it is expected that the final report will be ready for publication in a few months. This report should provide a useful analysis of the problems arising in the administration of justice due to language difficulties and differences.

International Law Association (Australian Branch)

The International Law Association is the oldest of all Associations whose objectives include the study and development of International Law in its many aspects. It has active branches in almost every country throughout the world and its members include many jurists of international repute. The Chairman and Vice Chairman are Lord McNair Q.C. and The Rt. Hon. Lord Hodson respectively.

The Australian Branch was formed about 3 years ago and it now has 110 members who come from all the States and include a number of Judges, Professors, and members of the legal profession, as well as some laymen and institutions. The Rt. Hon. Sir Owen Dixon is a Patron.

A number of interesting addresses have been given by Sir Percy Spender, Sir Garfield Barwick, Professor Bailey, Professor Stone and others. The Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law in the University of Singapore, Professor Green, will give an address on the subject "The Right of Asylum" in July next.

Many of the members are "corresponding members" with International Committees established by Head-