

Legal Convention at Perth upon the subject, thus giving the profession the opportunity of considering the principles upon which the proposed legislation was based and of making suggestions and criticisms for its ultimate improvement.

It is gratifying that the Attorney-General has again given the profession (as well as other interested bodies) the chance to consider the legislation before final drafting has taken place, since once drafting is complete, there is not much opportunity for influencing the general structure of a bill.

The New Zealand Law Conference

The Twelfth Triennial Conference of the New Zealand Law Society was held in Auckland between 16th and 19th April, 1963. The detailed organising of the Conference was carried out by an Auckland Organising Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. L. F. Meller.

The Conference was attended by a number of overseas guests who included the Right Honourable Baron Parker of Waddington (Lord Chief Justice of England) and Lady Parker; the Honourable L. J. Herron (Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of N.S.W.); the Honourable Sir Charles Lowe (Senior Puisne Judge of the Victorian Supreme Court); Sir Thomas Lund C.B.E. (Secretary of the Law Society of England); Mr. G. B. Powers and Mr. J. Balch, both from Kansas, U.S.A.; Mr. J. B. Piggott C.B.E. (President of the Law Council of Australia); the Honourable R. R. Downing M.L.C. (Attorney-General for N.S.W.); Maître R. Tenger (Avocat à la Cour d'Appel of Paris); and Mr. H. R. Harris (Senior Tutor in Law at Balliol College, Oxford).

In addition, there were some fourteen other visitors from Australia including the President of the Victorian Bar Association (McInerney Q.C.), Toose Q.C. of the N.S.W. Bar and Mr. K. Smithers (President of the Law Society of N.S.W.).

The Conference was attended by all members of the New Zealand Judiciary who were actually in the country at the time. It is interesting to note that there were in fact fifteen members of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court; four other judges and seventeen magistrates. The total attendance of practitioners was over 600, many accompanied by their wives. This is an extremely high proportion of the New Zealand profession, much higher than attends conventions in Australia.

Papers were presented on the following subjects: "The Law of Torts and the Welfare State"; "Frustration and Force Majeure—The Common Market and The Common Law"; "The New Zealand Constitution—Aspects of Change and Development"; "Public Relations for a Profession"; "Pensions for Judges' Widows"; "Medical Panels for Medical Questions"; "The Reform of the Law regarding Maintenance and Settlement of Property Rights Between Spouses in Matrimonial Disputes"; "Some Problems in the Theory and Practice of Criminal Punishment"; "Just How Indefeasible is Your Land Transfer Title"; "A criticism of the Interpretation of Statutes in the New Zealand Courts"; "Proposed Land Transfer Searching System"; "The Passing of the Risk from Vendor to Purchaser in Property Transactions"; and "The scope of the Child Care Centre Regulations, 1960".

Many social functions, particularly at private homes

and luncheons at Clubs, were arranged to enable delegates to mix freely.

In the Conference Programme, no Australian delegate was given the opportunity to speak on any official occasion although Australian delegates spoke on several of the papers. This was possibly due to the fact that in the past the Australian profession has not taken much interest in what has been happening in New Zealand, and accordingly the size and content of the Australian delegation was not really expected. The New Zealanders were obviously pleased that so many Australians had attended and that they took such an active part in both the business sessions and social functions.

The New Zealanders were particularly gratified because the Law Council of Australia presented the New Zealand Law Society with a modern sculpture intended to symbolize our common past and what was likely to be our common future. This presentation was made by the President of the Law Council (Mr. J. B. Piggott) at the closing ceremony.

It is interesting to note that although the New Zealand Profession is a fused Profession, when practitioners take Silk, they are required to practise separately as Barristers. Recently, in addition to the Silks, about nine juniors have commenced practising separately as Barristers, some in Auckland and others in Wellington.

After the conference was over Messrs. McInerney, Toose and Piggott visited Wellington and were entertained at the Headquarters of the New Zealand Law Society and also by Mr. Guy Smith, the President of the Wellington District Law Society. Council Members said that they were very anxious to have regular consultations with the Law Council of Australia, and there was some discussion as to how this could be achieved in the near future. The subject will no doubt be placed before the Law Council at the next meeting of its Executive.

In addition, the question of whether New Zealand Law Society and the Law Council of Australia should join together to make contact with all Law Societies and Bar Associations throughout South East Asia was discussed and the idea was received warmly. The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Marshall), himself a lawyer and former Attorney-General, expressed his support for the idea in principle and indicated that his assistance could be counted on to support such a scheme.

The Public Library of N.S.W.

The Bar Council has recently received from the Trustees of the Library a memorandum as to compliance by the Library with subpoenas for the production in Court of Library material.

The essence of the memorandum (a summary of which has been circulated to all floors) is that original library material will be produced if the requirements of justice cannot otherwise be satisfied but that certified photographic copies can be furnished at the ordinary charges made by the Library's Photographic Service. If the required material is still in print and can be obtained commercially, the Library will provide information as to where it may be obtained.

If the requirements of justice can be satisfied only by production of original material, it will be handed to a representative of the Prothonotary, who will be required to return the material to the Library at the end of each Court day whether the case for which it is required has been concluded or not.