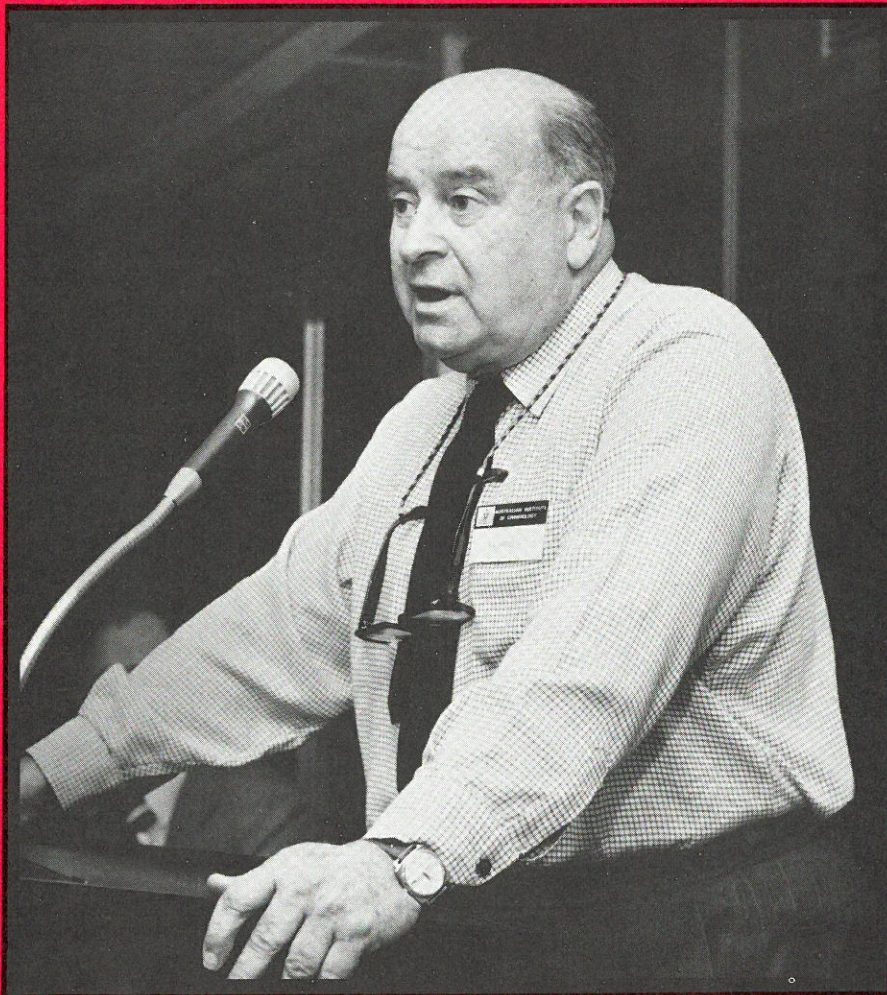


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COVER PHOTOGRAPH: Mr Ray Whitrod, President of the Victims of Crime Service in Adelaide, presents an Australian overview at the commencement of an Australian Institute of Criminology seminar held from 7-10 October, entitled 'Victims of Crime'.

reporter

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Letter to the editor...

Dear Madam/Sir,

I refer to the Letter to the Editor by your correspondent L.D. Draper, Commissioner of Police, South Australia, published in the *Reporter*, Volume 2, No. 1, September 1980. Mr Draper refers to 'inaccuracies' in a paper written by myself and abstracted in *Reporter*, Volume 1, No. 3, March 1980.

As you will be aware, the paper referred to is some 30 pages in length and discusses the inadequacy of current responses by police to domestic violence in Australia; it recommends, among other matters, a reassessment of police training for dealing with domestic crimes, leading to improved training programs for police. Those of your readers who wish to read the paper in its entirety may do so by purchasing a volume edited by Carol O'Donnell and Jan Craney, titled *Family Violence in Australia* and shortly to be published by Longman Cheshire; this will better inform them of the content than is possible through the short summary contained in the *Reporter* and to which Mr Draper refers.

There can be no doubt of the sincerity of Mr Draper in his view that in South Australia positive steps are being taken to improve the position of victims of domestic violence, and that a part of this improvement is due to police reassessment of their role and their attitudes. The South Australian Police Force is to be applauded for this. However, much remains to be done, and it would be premature for anyone working in the area to rest on their laurels.

The study which I am currently completing, and which covers domestic violence in all its forms, shows that despite moves in South Australia (and in some of the other States) to reassess the police role in domestic crimes, numerous victims remain dissatisfied with police performance. Women in South Australia report telephoning the police and, in their words, receiving inadequate attention; they report police as continuing to treat the matter as a problem between the parties, requiring victims to take prosecutorial action: in answering questionnaires, responses from women in South Australia do not differ from those of women from other States. Workers from women's refuges around Australia are sometimes appreciative of individual police officers in the carrying out of their duties; other police officers come in for considerable criticisms. Workers' responses from refuges in South Australia do not differ from workers' responses in other States.

In his letter Mr Draper refers to my statement that there is an urgent need for police training to enable officers to fulfil their duty of arrest where crimes occur in the home. He replies that 'over the years' the claim 'has been occasionally made' that despite sufficient evidence police are reluctant to act in domestic cases. My research over the past years show that 'occasionally' inadequately describes community claims in this area. Mr Draper comments that 'arrest and imprisonment are not always seen by the aggrieved spouse to be the appropriate remedy.' The tenor of this statement is disturbing. Rather than an 'aggrieved spouse', where

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(continued from p. 1)

she has been beaten by her husband, the wife is a victim of what amounts to a criminal act. Further, the view imputed to the victim cannot stand in the way of a police officer's duty where criminal acts occur.

Mr Draper referred to consultation with the South Australian office of the Women's Advisor to the Premier. At a conference conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology (papers from which are available in a volume entitled *Violence in the Family*, published by the Institute in 1980), a research officer from the Women's Advisor's Office presented a paper detailing the difficulties experienced by victims of domestic violence, particularly in terms of the law and (non) prosecution of criminal acts carried out in the domestic arena. The paper was written from the perspective of the position in South Australia with regard to police and problems of enforcement of criminal assault and injunction provisions. It supports the contents of my paper. Indeed, Mr Draper's own letter confirms many of the points raised by me.

It is to be hoped that the South Australian government will continue to support programs in crisis care, police training and the like. Domestic violence is a serious problem in South Australia. It is also to be hoped that other States will emulate South Australia in its efforts. Domestic violence is a serious problem in Australia generally. Certainly this is no time to be complacent. All police forces must continue to review and revise their training programs in the field of family crime, where distress is caused to numerous women and children and where faltering steps only have been taken to improve their lot.

Yours faithfully,
JOCELYNNE A. SCUTT (Dr),
Criminologist,
Australian Institute of Criminology.

Canadian visit

Senior Research Officer with the Australian Institute of Criminology, Mr Ivan Potas will be overseas next month.

Mr Potas has been invited to give a paper at the 5th International Congress on Law and Psychiatry in Canada.

The congress will be held in Alberta from 21-25 January. The previous congress was held at Pembroke College, Oxford, U.S.A. in 1979.

Mr Potas's paper will deal with the problems relating to the sentencing of mentally disordered offenders in Australia.

Fact finding — U.S.A.

Research criminologist with the Australian Institute of Criminology, Mr John Braithwaite arrived back in Australia recently, after spending four weeks in the United States.

In company with Mr Brent Fisse, a reader in law at Adelaide University, Mr Braithwaite gathered research material for a project and future book on the effect of adverse publicity regarding corporate crime on large corporations, and whether the adverse publicity caused the corporation to put in place various self regulatory mechanisms.

Mr Braithwaite's tour which took in six states, included visits to corporations including Lockheed, General Dynamics, I.B.M., Ford and General Motors.

While in the U.S.A., Mr Braithwaite delivered a paper to a meeting of the American Society of Criminology entitled, 'Do Slums Really Cause Crime?'

We were unable to gain an interview with Mr Braithwaite before the *Reporter* went to press. As a result, a detailed account of his tour in the United States will appear in the March edition of the *Reporter*.

Police attitudes

Results are currently being analysed of a study of selected attitudes of samples of Australian and American police officers.

A number of Queensland police officers completed earlier this year a questionnaire which explored their attitudes in respect of cynicism, job satisfaction and belief in an external locus of control. Their responses, together with those of a sample of New Jersey police officers, have been tabulated and compared.

Only tentative results are to hand so far. It will be some time into the New Year before final results are available. Preliminary results suggest that the Australian police officers are both less cynical and happier in their jobs than are their American colleagues. Little difference is apparent, though, with respect to their views concerning an external locus of control.

Cynical American police officers showed up as possessing low job satisfaction while, interestingly, this result does not appear to hold for Australian police officers. The only aspect of job satisfaction with which cynical Australian police officers showed any marked dissatisfaction is with supervisors. Cynical American policemen on the other hand evidenced dissatisfaction not only with supervisors but, also pay and promotions.

With regard to cynicism, Australian police officers only showed an association with the utility of college degrees, whereas American policemen evidenced strong cynicism with regard to police dedication to duty, the efficiency of departmental organisation, police professionalisation, disciplinary hearings, departmental rules and regulations, sensitivity of police personnel and job assignment criteria.

Further analysis will be necessary before the study's results can be published. Hopefully, these findings will be available early in the New Year. ®

New Institute publications

VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY

Edited by
Jocelynn A. Scutt

Australian Institute of Criminology

Violence in the Family, published recently by the Australian Institute of Criminology, had its beginning from a collection of conference papers edited by Dr Jocelynn Scutt, a criminologist at the Institute.

The book was born from a national conference hosted on children and family violence in November 1979 by the Institute assisted by the Office of Child Care in the Commonwealth Department of Social Security.

The conference was attended by about 60 lawyers, social workers, sociologists, psychiatrists and other professional people.

The book examines children and family violence, child abuse, staying together for the sake of the family, marital murder and the effects of spouse beating on children.

In her introduction to the publication, Dr Scutt stated that it was to be hoped that publication of the resolutions might make more members of the public re-think their lifestyles, to re-consider their methods of relating to one another, and to begin the painful process of re-adjusting our humanity to end all forms of abuse.

The conference sought to assemble persons from around Australia researching various aspects of domestic violence. By putting them in touch with each other, it was hoped to disclose the extent of violence uncovered by research, the myths of domestic violence, and attitudes of the community towards the issues.

RAPE LAW REFORM

Edited by
Jocelynn A. Scutt

Australian Institute of Criminology

Rape Law Reform, edited by criminologist Dr Jocelynn Scutt, was recently published by the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Its content was compiled from a collection of conference papers edited by Dr Scutt, and the proceedings of a national conference on rape law reform held in Hobart, Tasmania in May 1980.

The conference was substantially supported by the Tasmanian and New South Wales Governments, the Federal Attorney-General, and the New South Wales Law Foundation.

The conference from which the book was compiled was made possible by the Australian Institute of Criminology, the Tasmanian Law Reform Commission, and the University of Tasmania Law School.

Chapters in the book deal with the substantive law, the law of evidence, police and community issues and political issues.

The conference was planned with a view to concentrating upon the reform of the law of rape; to evaluate changes introduced in some Australian jurisdictions; and to take advantage of the introduction of new laws into the United States.

The papers contained in *Rape Law Reform* are those presented as the basis for discussion.

Recognising that rape does not take place in a legal vacuum and that law reform is a political as well as a legislative issue, two further substantive issues were canvassed: the problems facing victims of rape in police, hospital and community contact; and the politics of rape and law reform.

Copies are available from the Publications Branch of the Institute at \$4.00 each, plus \$3.00 postage.



William Clifford

DIRECTOR'S DIGEST

One of the original proposals for the Australian Institute of Criminology was that it should provide a university campus type of academic training in all branches of the criminal sciences. This would have been an immense undertaking and the idea did not survive (a) the curtailments of government expenditure which hit the institute's training program worst and (b) the perceived prior need for an extension of local research so as to provide, for teaching purposes, sufficient Australian material to match the information already available from other countries.

The first five or six years of this Institute's work, therefore, have been concentrated largely upon filling the gaps in information about Australian crime and developing a range of publications which could be valuable for training. Those years have also enabled this Institute to establish its position internationally and to acquire the academic status necessary for any launching of advanced training.

There is a need, however, for a truly national approach to education within the criminal justice system. Many States have similar problems and not all can afford extensive educational facilities. In any case high level expertise in Australia is limited. This need for tertiary and advanced criminal justice (not only criminological) education in Australia is not entirely satisfied by present university programs or by the range of excellent internal training courses which the police, the courts and the prisons have provided for themselves. As the knowledge of crime as a political, economic and social phenomenon expands

and as the education levels of police, lawyers, court officials, probation officers, prison officers and others progressively rise, the demand for an integrated qualification at an advanced level increases. It is needed to provide expertise in the planning, administration and coordination of crime prevention work in all the services of the criminal justice system. It is needed for integrated academic and practical experience in this field.

The higher administrative levels of the criminal justice services now require people with tertiary education in the subjects which they are dealing with every day. Not only are crimes becoming more complex and more difficult to handle, the criminal justice services themselves are becoming less amenable to the older patterns of control and direction. Unions now play a very active part in decision making and as the links of the police with the community become wider and the deficiencies of our correctional services are more exposed, there is a need for more intensive preparation of those officers who are to carry the responsibilities.

Apart from the administration, there have been, across the world, vast extensions of knowledge due to immense amounts of money spent on research and experimentation. The related social and forensic sciences have developed out of all proportion, so that the ordinary police officer, lawyer, or correctional worker needs to know a great deal more than in the past in order to do his job. Within the criminal justice system there is a growing scientific involvement. Police science, architectural interests in crimes and physical plann-

ing, to take only a few examples, raise broad questions for further analysis and a wider dissemination of knowledge.

Some parts of this broad area of need are, of course, being very competently covered already by the universities and by specialists within the particular services. It would be churlish not to recognise the valuable work that has been done in some of the universities and colleges of advanced education to provide intermediary or tertiary qualifications in criminology, law and the social sciences, but the professors and teachers themselves are well aware of the limitations imposed by the lack of funding and by the lack of effective integration in the education and training provided across the criminal justice system. The seminars, conferences and courses held at the Australian Institute of Criminology have underscored the importance of doing more for more of those involved in this important work.

There is, therefore, a continuing need for a national approach which will assist all States and Territories to have the provisions for basic training, middle range and advanced courses for promotional needs and (perhaps sound part-time or correspondence) tertiary programs for new recruits, as well as the more seasoned administrators. The opportunity for developing such a national approach has been enhanced in the past few years by the work of the Australian Institute of Criminology and by the improvements in the various services across Australia. Should we not move boldly, therefore, into the establishment of an Academy for

(continued on p. 5)

Former N.Y. Police Chief visit

Former chief Commissioner of the New York Police Department, now president of the Police Foundation in Washington, Mr Patrick Murphy visited the Australian Institute of Criminology last month.

Mr Murphy's flying visit to the Institute was part of an Australia wide tour designed to exchange views with government officials and senior policemen in all states.

While at the Institute, Mr Murphy agreed to an informal discussion session with staff, organised by the acting Director of the A.I.C., Mr David Biles.

Mr Murphy said that an important factor in the work of the Police Foundation, which was set up in 1970 with a 30 million dollar commitment from the Ford Foundation, had been the cooperation and guidance of the chiefs of many of America's police departments.

Since its inception, the Foundation has produced more than 35 publications probing such areas as the value of routine police patrolling, team policing, police corruption, police use of deadly force, police administration and



Patrick V. Murphy, President, Police Foundation, Washington

firearms abuse.

While discussing aspects of the role of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States, Mr Murphy said he believed a

Federal Government could take a strong part in crime prevention by being responsible for data collection and research into personnel and other matters. ®

(continued from p. 4)

Criminal Justice Education which would be at a university level, able to conduct regular programs and capable of developing a nationwide part-time and correspondence program for those officers in the field who are anxious to qualify but who, at present, have no opportunity. If it improved and made more efficient the massive and costly machinery already devoted to crime control, it would repay the initial investment in less than five years. And that is a good business proposition.

Such a National Academy would concentrate upon education rather than research — although it would not exclude research. Naturally the usual link between research and training would have to be followed so that those engaged

in the training could undertake specified projects and feed back the results into their teaching. Nevertheless, the emphasis of the Academy would be on Education and Training, because this is Australia's greatest need at the moment. Hopefully the Academy would also be in a position to provide services for the public at large and in this connection might later be empowered to organise courses across the country, wherever local facilities and needs made this possible and advisable. A whole range of local colleges could be brought into the program.

This is a development which should not be confined to any one body within the criminal justice system and would probably need to be administered by a council

constituted very much like the present Criminology Research Council, with representation from all States. There would need to be a pooling of knowledge and information, but with the costs of preventing crime growing as disproportionately as they are, and with the present dissatisfaction with existing services, it is vital that we move now to provide the country with the crime prevention education necessary for the year 2000.

Needless to say, this Institute, originally conceived to provide such education would be available to provide any servicing function which might be required — as it does already for the Criminology Research Council and for a number of other bodies nationally and internationally. ®

Crimes of violence

There is likely to be a decline in the incidence of violent crime during the 1980s as the population structure changes, according to a seminar on 'Violent Crime in Australia' conducted at the Australian Institute of Criminology in October.

Discussions at the seminar showed that violent crime was related to the size of the 15 to 24 year old group in the population.

A senior criminologist at the Institute, Dr S. Mukherjee pointed out that contrary to the public fear of violent crime, it was no more prevalent now in relation to the population than it was in 1900.

Dr Mukherjee showed that violent crime rates in Australia had not changed much over the past century or so, regardless of the imprisonment policy of the various states.

In another study, Professor Richard Harding of Western Australia, affirmed that people were far more likely to be killed by people they knew than by strangers.

On the subject of robbery, Dr Peter Grabosky from the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Adelaide said a four year study of robbery had shown that the average amount of money involved in robberies committed without a weapon was \$34 and \$120 for those with a weapon.

Advocates of a hard line on crime in the United States have recently been calculating the number of crimes which could be prevented by lengthening the sentences passed on violent offenders.

However, Professor Simon Dinitz of Ohio State University described a study recently completed which cast doubt on the efficacy of this policy by showing that:

- (a) It is not always easy to identify the truly chronic offenders and difficult to classify them all as dangerous.
- (b) If all chronic offenders were imprisoned for a period of at least five years, this would cause two serious problems;

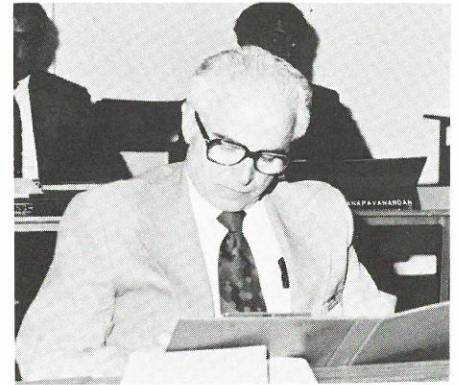
- (i) the prison population would be increased to an extent difficult for the taxpayer to support;
- (ii) among the ones being imprisoned to be kept out of circulation, there would inevitably be a large proportion of offenders who would not have committed other offences, and it would be unjust to keep these in prison for what they might do rather than what they have done.

Professor Dinitz pointed out that the difficulty of distinguishing those that would commit crime from those who would not was the real problem.

He said, 'we can predict in the aggregate but not in the particular cases so that the possibility of injustice cannot be excluded'.

Professor Marvin Wolfgang of Pennsylvania University described a cohort study of juveniles and their recorded and unrecorded offences and said that the possibility of the amount of crime which could be prevented by keeping them in institutions could be worked out.

Other participants at the seminar were the Hon. George Akua'ola, Minister of Police in Tonga, the Hon. Mr Justice L.K. Murphy, High Court of Australia; Mr C. Bevan, Assistant Director (Training), Aust-



Professor Simon Dinitz

ralian Institute of Criminology; Mr D. Biles, Assistant Director (Research), Australian Institute of Criminology; Mr B.D. Bodna, Director-General, Department of Community Welfare Services, Vic.; Dr J. Braithwaite, criminologist at the Institute; Professor F. Gordon Hawkins, Assistant Director, Sydney University Law School; Mr Lim Hsin Lom, Singapore; Mr David Yip Chi Pang, Hong Kong; Mr I. Potas, senior research officer at the Institute; Mr Saravanapavanandan, Sri Lanka; Dr Ashok Kumar Singh, Fiji; Dr Fazur Rahman, Bangladesh; Mr J.N. Rajan, India; and Dr G. Wardlaw, criminologist at the Institute. The mediator of the seminar was the Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology, Mr William Clifford. ®



Pictured from left: Professor Marvin Wolfgang, Pennsylvania University and Mr B.D. Bodna, Director-General, Department of Community Welfare Services, Victoria.

Alcohol and crime

A three day seminar entitled 'Alcohol and Crime' commenced at the Australian Institute of Criminology on Tuesday 21 October.

Specific issues addressed during the seminar were:

the facilitating effect of alcohol in lowering inhibitions, where, for example, a person may act more aggressively, dangerously, recklessly or violently after imbibing alcohol, than he or she may ordinarily;

the relationship between alcohol and domestic violence and sexual offences;

the extent to which considerations about alcohol affect sentencing decisions; and

the relationship between alcohol and the over-representation of Aborigines in the criminal justice system.

Speakers at the seminar included academic and research workers, legal practitioners, Aboriginal legal and welfare services, departments of Attorneys-General, police, brewers, and religious and charitable welfare organisations.

In his paper 'The Role of Alcohol in Sentencing', senior research officer with the Australian Institute of Criminology, Mr Ivan Potas, stated that he would not go so far as to suggest that alcohol caused crime.

He rejected the notion that there was a direct causal relationship between alcohol intake and assaultive or other criminal behaviour. However, he said, people did behave differently when under the influence, and this was taken into account when a sentence was passed.

Mr Potas said that whether alcohol was regarded as a mitigating factor of the crime depended on a great number of factors. While he was prepared to accept the proposition that a significant proportion of serious crime was committed by individuals who, at the time of the offence, were under the influence of alcohol,

this fact alone did not guarantee that the offender would receive a more lenient sentence.

Mr Potas says that the alcohol factor is generally more effective as a mitigating factor where it is coupled with other mitigating circumstances.

One such consideration, is that the offence was 'out of character', or was not premeditated, and the presence of alcohol assisted in providing credibility to such assertions.

Research criminologist at the Australian Institute of Criminology Dr Jocelyne Scutt, in conclusion to her paper on the 'Alcoholic Imperative, a Sexist Rationalisation for Rape and Domestic Violence', said that an 'objective review of studies and legal cases allegedly finding a link between alcohol and rape, and alcohol and domestic violence, disclosed that such a link was not so easily relied upon.

She said rape and domestic violence inexorably occurred when the parties had been programmed into interacting in a passive-aggressive, dominant-submissive manner in male-female relations and particularly in regard to sexual relations.

She said that, far from being unnatural or abnormal, aggression directed toward women was a natural outcome of our socialisation, of women being socialised into accepting passive and submissive roles, and of men being socialised into taking on roles that were dominant and aggressive.

Dr Scutt said that rather than concentrate upon alcohol as the culprit, if the aim were to eliminate domestic violence and rape from society, clearly what must be concentrated upon were the methods by which we socialise men and women, boys and girls into patterns promoting violence as a way of life.

Mr Henry Wallwork, Q.C. of Perth, W.A. told the seminar that it was obvious that it could not be maintained that alcohol caused all crimes.

His own research had shown that in the following crimes, alcohol usually played no part: drug trafficking, possession of drugs, forgery and uttering, extortion by written demand, and political offences and bigamy.

Mr Wallwork said that in addition, alcohol usually played no part in offences such as breaking, entering and stealing. Sixty per cent of offences investigated involving the unlawful use of motor vehicles did not involve alcohol.

Mr Wallwork stated that the offences which were very often found to be associated with alcohol included wilful murder, murder and manslaughter.

AGGRESSION DIRECTED TOWARD WOMEN WAS A NATURAL OUTCOME OF OUR SOCIALISATION

Mr Wallwork said 15 cases of rape were studied in his investigation.

In one, the significance of alcohol was not known, but in the last nine of the 15 instances, alcohol was present to a considerable degree on each occasion.

He believes that alcohol causes many crimes involving violence, and that alcohol plays a more dominant role in those crimes involving violence where material or sexual gain is not the object of the violence.

Mr Wallwork said a report from the Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare published in 1977, stated that 73 per cent of the men who had committed a violent crime had been drinking prior to the commission of the crime, also that alcohol was associated with half the serious crimes in Australia.

He revealed that a study of rape offenders in Victoria, showed that overall, 71 per cent said they were accustomed to getting drunk at least once a week.

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Crime survey results

The Australian Institute of Criminology has released the details of a survey aimed at exploring the relationship between crime and planning in Canberra's inner Northern suburbs.

The idea for the survey stemmed from an International Crime Prevention planning course conducted at the Institute during April-May last year.

The survey revealed that crime was not regarded as a serious problem in Canberra's inner suburbs.

Only 2 per cent of the residents of Canberra's inner suburbs felt their suburbs had more serious levels of crime and anti-social behaviour than elsewhere.

The Institute was interested in gaining an understanding of the impact of criminal and anti-social activity in a planned city, and the relationships, (if any) between planning and crime.

The survey involved 2,230 mailed questionnaires. Seven hundred and thirty eight responses were received representing a response rate of about 33 per cent.

ONLY TWO PER CENT... FELT THEIR SUBURBS HAD MORE SERIOUS LEVELS OF CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR THAN ELSEWHERE

Residents were asked their opinion of the level of crime in their suburbs in an attempt to assess residents' fears of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Most households did not see their suburbs as having a disproportionate level of crime and

anti-social behaviour compared to other Canberra suburbs.

Dwelling design was seen by 38 per cent as unimportant for personal safety, while only 20 per cent felt their design made for greater safety.

About 50 per cent of residents said they paid more attention than previously to locking doors and windows, and about 40 per cent to securing autos and insuring against burglary.

The survey revealed that the most common crimes committed in the past year were: damage to property around dwellings - 17 per cent; theft of property around dwellings - 13 per cent; and theft of parts from motor vehicles - six per cent.

The Institute intends to compare the behaviour patterns in Canberra with those in a relatively unplanned suburban area in Australia. ®

(continued from p. 7)

Referring to an Australian Institute of Criminology publication entitled *Crime and Justice in Australia*, Mr Wallwork said that an article written by Mr John Newton pointed out that the incidence of crime among Aboriginal people was shown to be greatly influenced by alcohol.

The report indicated that in the Northern Territory, 75 per cent of those gaoled, are gaoled for public drunkenness.

Mr Wallwork said that from his own experience over a period of 12 months study in the North West of Western Australia, nearly all the offences committed by Aboriginal people were drink-related.

SEMINAR RESOLUTIONS

1. The seminar urged the banning of alcoholic liquor advertising from the electronic media.

2. That all State, Federal and Territory governments significantly increase research expenditure to determine why a large propor-

tion of Aboriginals are in gaols for drink-related offences.

3. More strenuous government action is needed to have effect on the potential drink driver.

(The seminar accepted and supported the recommendation by the recent House of Representatives committee in its report entitled 'Drugs, Alcohol and Road Safety', in that random breath testing should be introduced in all states.)

4. A national campaign to be commenced as soon as possible to better inform all Australians of the effects of drink/driving.

5. That this seminar seeks and supports a Health Department study as to the need for alcohol products to be marketed with a label warning that excessive use of alcohol may be a health hazard.

6. That a levy based upon the pure alcohol content of each sale of alcoholic liquor be deducted by Federal authorities and allocated directly to research into

alcoholism and alcohol-related crime, and to the treatment of persons suffering from alcohol-related disorders.

7. That the State and Federal governments through their Attorneys-General be advised that there should be a financial incentive to encourage the consumption of low alcohol beverages.

8. That the offence of drunkenness be removed from all Australian criminal statutes, provided that adequate social welfare facilities are made available to deal with the problem of drunkenness.

9. The seminar recommends that future work should: examine the influence of cultural factors in the alcohol crime relationship; focus on alcohol's role in domestic violence; look at the contribution of alcohol to the disproportionate involvement of young adult males in serious crime; and attempt to understand the relationship of situational factors to the occurrence of alcohol-induced behaviour.

Caracas and crime

Representatives from 101 States gathered in Caracas, Venezuela from 25 August to 5 September 1980, for the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. There were observers from 8 inter-governmental organisations, including the Council of Europe, INTERPOL, League of Arab States, Organisation of African Unity and Organisation of American States. There were 30 non-governmental organisations, including Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists, the International Prisoners Aid Association, the International Society of Criminology, the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation and others. There were observers from the Palestine Liberation Organisation, South-West Africa People's Organisation and, in addition, 190 individual participants, of which 110 were from Venezuela and other South American countries. Only 28 came from North America and 52 from other States around the world.

This small number of individual participants showed a marked difference between this Congress and the five preceding Congresses. It meant a marked absence of many distinguished criminologists who could not be members of government delegations, were not able to represent non-governmental organisations and had not written to the United Nations to solicit a personal invitation to attend at their own expense. The heavy emphasis was, therefore, on a meeting of government delegations similar to other official meetings of the United Nations. This was very different to the less formal structure of these Congresses over the past 30 years — an informality previously agreed between the United Nations and the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission in 1949-50 when the United Nations assumed responsibility for the international congresses previously held by that Commission. The change followed 1979-80 alterations to the rules of procedure made by the Economic

and Social Council. Under pressure from some delegations which preferred to keep it official, ECOSOC sought to bring these congresses into line with other United Nations functional meetings; the effect on individual participation was both intended and expected.

With this very pronounced shift to the official arena, it was inevitable the meetings would become more political than they had been and would, perhaps, reflect some of the political differences characteristic of meetings of the General Assembly. This did happen, but in general there was less political conflict than might have been expected and the resolutions generally followed the lines mapped out by the working papers on each item of the agenda prepared for the Congress by the Secretariat. Many of the delegations did include distinguished personalities in the criminal justice sciences and the Norwegian and Finnish Delegations in particular were led by those countries' most distinguished criminologists.

There were many expressions of regret that the Congress had not been held in Sydney and it was obvious that large numbers of those attending had hoped to have the opportunity of visiting Australia. There were even hopes that the Seventh Congress might be held in Sydney, but Morocco seems to be a more likely venue and there was no proposal from the Australian Government that a Congress might consider a venue in Australia.

The Australian Delegation was led by His Excellency *Mr A.D. Brown*, the Australian Ambassador to Venezuela and the Deputy Leaders were: *Hon. B.K. Miller*, M.L.C., Attorney-General, Tasmania; *Hon. W. Jona*, M.P., Minister for Community Welfare Services, Victoria; *Hon. F.J. Walker*, M.L.A., Attorney-General, N.S.W.; *Hon. S.S. Doumany*, M.L.A. Minister for Welfare, Queensland; *Mr F.J. Mabony*, C.B., O.B.E., President, Repatriation Review Tribunal and Australian representative on the Committee on Crime Prevent-

ion and Control.

The other Federal and State members of the Delegation were as follows: *Commonwealth: Sir Colin Woods*, K.C.V.O., C.B.E., Q.P.M., Commissioner, Australian Federal Police; *Mr William Clifford*, Director, Australian Institute of Criminology; *Mr P.R. Loof*, First Assistant Secretary, Attorney-General's Department and Australian Coordinator for the Congress; *Mr B.E. Matthews*, General Legal Section, Department of Foreign Affairs; *Mr I. Deane*, Principal Legal Officer, Criminology Section, Attorney-General's Department; *Mr R.J. McInnes*, First Secretary, Australian Embassy, Caracas.

New South Wales: Mr T.W. Haines, Under-Secretary, Department of Attorney-General and Justice; *Dr T. Vinson*, Chairman, Corrective Services Commission; *Mr J.T. Lees*, Q.P.M., Commissioner of Police; *Mr P.E. Quinn*, Assistant Director, Department of Youth and Community Services.

Victoria: Mr B.D. Bodna, Director-General for Community Welfare Services; *Mr S.I. Miller*, Q.P.M., Chief Commissioner of Police.

Queensland: Mr C.L. Johnson, Under-Secretary, Department of Welfare Services; *Mr L.R. Duffy*, Q.P.M., Assistant Commissioner of Police.

South Australia: Mr G.C. Bruff, Deputy Director-General, Department of Community Welfare; *Mr D.A. Hunt*, Assistant Commissioner of Police.

Western Australia: Mr R.M. Christie, Under-Secretary for Law.

Tasmania: Mr J.O. Green, Secretary, Attorney-General's Department; *Mr M.J. Robinson*, Commissioner of Police.

Space limits this report for this issue of the *Reporter*, but the proceedings of the Sixth United Nations Congress will be covered in our March edition. ®

Who cares about the victims?

A seminar on 'Victims of Crime' was conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology over four days from 7 October.

Participants included primary and secondary victims, judges, barristers and magistrates, correctional officers, welfare officers, policemen, and representatives of support groups, criminologists, statisticians and legal officers.

The aims of the seminar were:

- (a) to assist the Australian Bureau of Statistics in an evaluation of users' needs for a national survey;
- (b) to consider developments in matters of compensation and restitution. . . to review means of assistance provided in all states and to ascertain areas where further assistance was required;
- (c) to learn from victims the deficiencies in the present system, and from their perspectives, determine the assistance which should be given by the criminal justice system.

In attendance were former Queensland police commissioner Mr Ray Whitrod, now with the Victims of Crime Service in Adelaide, and rape victim Mrs Marion Fischle, also with the Service.

In his paper 'Victimology — the study of victims in Australia' delivered at the seminar, Mr Whitrod said that the Victims of Crime Service — V.O.C.S. — operated to help new victims by offering the friendship of a previous victim, and by offering advice from volunteers wise in the ways of the criminal justice system or experienced in resolving financial crisis.

It enlists the assistance of retired persons to staff its office and provides a court companion scheme at the request of detectives in charge of cases.

V.O.C.S. is a voluntary, non-political, non-sectarian association of concerned citizens which has as its aim, helping individuals who



From left, in foreground: Dr J.F. Walsh of Brannagh, Justices Association, Melbourne; Mr M. Butler, Supervisor, Justice and Other Social Statistics, Australian Bureau Statistics, Canberra; and Dr C. Deller, Coordinator Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Perth.

have been the victims of crime, providing a unifying centre for such victims, and developing a voice for their views.

Mr Whitrod said that it seemed to be overlooked even by the most thorough of researchers in Australia, that victims themselves had alternatives to the criminal justice system if they believed they would not get satisfaction, or if the cost were too high.

Mr Whitrod told the seminar, that after thirty years, victimology was not much more advanced in theory construction than its parent discipline was nearly a hundred years ago.

He said judges, lawyers and police officers tended to be traditionalists, and subjected any proposals for change to close examination.

Mr Whitrod said it was a matter of some import to note that the Chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission argued that there should be no upper limits to claims, but if there had to be, then it should be related to that used in sporting incidents, for example, \$63,000.

In a paper dealing with restitution, assistance to victims as alternatives to imprisonment, research

criminologist at the Australian Institute of Criminology, Dr Jocelyne Scutt, said that in Australia today, it would be wrong to say that restitution was entirely phased out or ignored.

But she pointed out that various problems arose with the system as it stood.

Dr Scutt said the victim had no formalised role in the proceedings beyond being a witness for the prosecution.

No one, she said, had a duty to inform the victim of his or her rights as regards to restitution.

No one was required to ascertain from the victim the exact amount of loss and or damage suffered.

In the provisions, responsibility for awarding restitution rested solely upon the judge or magistrate.

Dr Scutt said a pilot scheme should be set up to reintroduce the idea of restitution into the Australian criminal justice system in a formalised way rather than leaving it to chance as is currently the case.

She said magistrates and judges should be required to consider at the outset whether a particular individual would be better placed in a community program than in

prison, and a demonstrated desire to repay the victim should have some influence on final disposition.

Mr William Clifford, the Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology, told the seminar that victims were the forgotten tribe of the criminal justice system.

He said the state had to be satisfied for offences against the law, but the victim had been, until very recently, only a witness for the prosecution.

Mr Clifford told the seminar that we must be sure that the balance of justice had three arms, the victim, society and the offender.

Discussions and recommendations fell into several main groups.

SURVEY

The seminar strongly supported the Australian Bureau of Statistics' proposal not to exclude items on criminal victimisation in its forthcoming national survey.

It was argued that the Australian community was becoming increasingly aware of the plight of victims of crime and the information which was produced by the earlier 1975 survey contributed towards over coming lack of knowledge of the situation.

Data which should be forthcoming would contribute even more towards providing greater knowledge and would be of much benefit to Government and voluntary bodies making decisions about steps which should be taken to assist these victims of crime.

INTIMIDATION

The seminar was of the view that personal details of witnesses such as address or any other factors which would go towards identification should not be made available to defendants, or to the general public, as such disclosure left witnesses open to intimidation or the risk of personal injury; it

requested that such instructions as may be necessary be given to police, prosecutors, judges and magistrates in this regard, and that if necessary legislation be introduced to this effect.

EDUCATION

It was felt that appropriate educational programs should be developed in each State for medical and legal practitioners to study the implications of compensation payments for physical and emotional injuries received directly or indirectly as a result of criminal offences.

CHILDREN

The seminar submitted that child victims of crimes such as incest and sexual assault had particular and special needs that were not adequately met by existing programs and resources in Australia.

It recommended that those involved with children in such circumstances place more emphasis on close inter-professional cooperation and liaison, and intra State consultation, and that significant efforts be made to raise the present level of understanding of the community concerning such problems.

COURT ATTENDANCE

Since those appearing in court, whether as defendants, witnesses or victims, were in most cases, disadvantaged by their unfamiliarity with and lack of knowledge of, court procedure, the seminar recommended that in all jurisdictions, people appearing in criminal cases be given an explanatory leaflet which explained in a full and comprehensive way, and yet in simple language, the procedure in the court in which the matter would be heard, and which set out what was expected of the person concerned.

It was requested that a draft of

such a court procedure leaflet be prepared by the Australian Institute of Criminology and forwarded to all Attorneys-General for consideration.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY

It was resolved that Governments had a responsibility to their electors to provide compensation for the victims of crime, and that the present scale of compensation be abolished and compensation paid be in accordance with the principles of other compensation schemes.

SUPPORT GROUPS

The Commissioners of Police were found to have a responsibility to ensure that police were trained to be aware of the welfare of victims and a responsibility to implement a system whereby a coordinator was appointed to liaise with supporting welfare groups.

MEDIA

All areas of the media had a responsibility to include crime victimisation in the ethics of their profession and to support, without censoring, this area of their responsibility.

Specifically the seminar resolved that:

amounts of compensation for a victim of violent crime should be determined on the basis of the seriousness of the victim's injuries;

the needs of child victims of crime should be adequately met;

the costs of legal aid should not be deducted from a victim's compensation award;

compensation for victims of violent crime to be determined judicially;

legislative provision of com-

(continued on p. 12)

Retired?

One of the original members of the Criminology Research Council, Dr Eric Cunningham Dax announced his retirement in October.

Dr Dax also served terms on the Boards of Management of the Australian Institute of Criminology. He was farewelled by its Director Mr William Clifford and colleagues and staff at the Institute at a luncheon in Canberra.

Mr Clifford said, 'Although we had a farewell lunch for Dr Dax, we really do not regard him as retired.'

Mr Clifford said that although Dr Dax may no longer represent Tasmania on the Council and the Board of Management, he was still very much a colleague in the Institute's work to deal with crime and its socially related problems.

The Director said that Dr Dax had retired at least twice before and on neither occasion had this diminished his contribution to psychiatry and criminological research.

Mr Clifford said that as a scholar and administrator, Dr Dax had distinguished himself in a variety of fields.

He said he remembered shortly after the war in Surrey of reading

reports of how the Superintendent of Warlingham Park Memorial Hospital had boldly opened the doors and inaugurated a new regime of enlightened treatment for mental patients.

It was, of course, Eric Cunningham Dax.

Mr Clifford said that when he arrived in Australia, Dr Dax was one of the first to greet him and together decided upon a project to study the effects of the bridge collapse in Hobart.

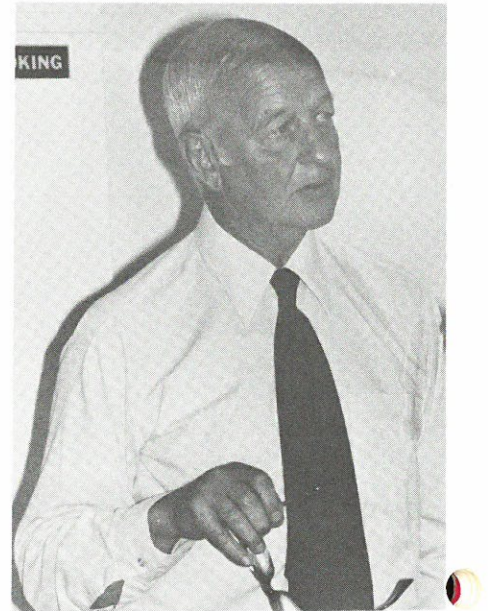
During the Canberra luncheon, Dr Dax, whose formal education was carried out in London, referred to the occasion as a generous, delightful and enjoyable event.

He said that while it was sad to be leaving the Institute, it was nice to be among old friends.

Dr Dax was appointed to the Criminology Research Council to represent Tasmania in 1972.

At that time he was the Co-ordinator in Community Health Services in Tasmania, a position he attained in 1969.

Over a long and distinguished career, Dr Dax was also appointed President of the Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiat-



Dr Cunningham Dax

rists in 1965 and was Chairman of the Mental Health Authority in Victoria from 1952-69.

Dr Dax's publications included: *Modern Mental Treatment*, 1947; *Experimental Studies in Psychiatric Art*, 1953; *Asylum to Community*, 1961; and *Pictorial Representation of Depression*, 1965.

He was also co-author of the Australian Institute of Criminology's publication, *Aftermath: The Tasman Bridge Collapse*. ®

(continued from p. 11)

compensation for spouses, de facto spouses and dependents of dead and severely injured victims; victims of crime to have an express right of appeal to a court against compensation inadequacy, or error of law;

victims of crime to have an express right of appearance and to be legally represented before the compensating court or tribunal,

legislative and departmental compensation procedures should be streamlined;

orders for compensation for victims should be made against, or be payable by the crown, in the first instance;

provision for legislative reimbursement by the crown to a

victim of the costs of, and incidental to, an application for compensation;

liberal extension of legal aid schemes to victims;

that it is not responsible for governments to seek to justify failure to reform criminal injuries compensation schemes on the basis of unsubstantiated assertions that such reform would be too expensive;

Governments should commission criminologists and economists to try to determine the cost of particular proposed reforms;

if necessary the implementation of reforms of criminal injuries compensation schemes be funded by special fines or surcharges or general fines;

legislative provision for quick re-imbursements of funeral expenses of death caused by crime; and

compensation schemes to include care for victims of domestic violence.

Other speakers of the seminar were: **Mr C.R. Brabe**, Director, Magistrates Courts Administration, Sydney; **Mr J. Braithwaite**, Criminologist, Australian Institute of Criminology; **Dr A. Connon**, South Australian Health Commission, Adelaide; **Dr C. Deller**, Co-ordinator, Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Perth; **Mr W.B. Macrae**, Chief Inspector, Crime Prevention Bureau, Victoria Police; **Mr A. Paterson**, Director, Crisis Care Unit, Adelaide; and **Dr J.F. Walsh of Brannagh**, Justices Association, Melbourne. ®

By David Biles
Assistant Director (Research)

Asian and Pacific series

Correctional administrators in the countries listed below have supplied the basic information which is incorporated in the following table. The footnotes contain a number of explanations that should be borne in mind when making comparisons between countries.

Table 1 Total Prisoners as at 1 September 1980

	Prisoners			Populations	
	Males	Females	Total	(in thousands)	Rate ¹
Australia ²	9,407	325	9,732	14,606	66.6
Canada ³	9,526	138	9,664	23,810	40.6
Fiji	1,325	25	1,350	619	218.1
Hong Kong	5,270	270	5,540 ⁴	5,068	109.3
Indonesia ⁵	35,010	714	35,724	130,000	27.5
Macau	228	2	230	350	65.7
Malaysia	8,339	174	8,513	13,000	65.5
New Zealand	2,672	126	2,846	3,144	90.5
Singapore	3,683	101	3,784	2,750	137.6
Sri Lanka	11,014	380	11,394	14,500	78.6
Western Samoa ⁶	204	6	210	155	135.5

- 1 Per 100,000 of population
- 2 Australian statistics in this table are based on the daily average number of prisoners for the month of August 1980
- 3 As at 1 July 1980 (Federal prisoners only)
- 4 An additional 1,283 were detained in drug addiction treatment centres. If these detainees were counted as prisoners the Hong Kong imprisonment rate would be 134.6
- 5 As at 1 August 1980
- 6 As at 1 July 1980

During the period August to October 1980 there has continued to be marked decrease in the daily average number of prisoners in Australia. The decrease is particularly noticeable in New South Wales, but smaller decreases are found in nearly all other jurisdictions. The numbers of prisoners in all States and Territories for October 1980 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Daily Average Australian Prison Populations October 1980 with Changes since July 1980

	Males	Females	Total	Changes since July 1980
N.S.W.	3,104	102	3,206	- 229
Vic.	1,719	55	1,774	- 31
Qld.	1,618	39	1,657	- 19
S.A.	835	28	863	- 23
W.A.	1,359	62	1,421	- 50
Tas.	241	7	248	- 16
N.T.	262	16	278*	+ 4
A.C.T.	53	-	53**	- 1
Australia	9,191	309	9,500	- 365

- * 9 prisoners in this total were serving sentences in S.A. prisons and 2 in N.S.W. prisons.
** 48 prisoners in this total were serving sentences in N.S.W. prisons.

Table 2 shows the imprisonment rates (daily average prisoners per 100,000 population), for October 1980. The national rate of 64.8 compares with 67.5 found in July 1980.

Table 2 Daily Average Prison Populations and Imprisonment Rates by Jurisdiction - October 1980

	Prisoners	General Pop.* '000	Imprisonment Rates
N.S.W.	3,206	5,157	62.2
Vic.	1,774	3,901	45.5
Qld.	1,657	2,237	74.1
S.A.	863	1,304	66.2
W.A.	1,421	1,274	111.5
Tas.	248	423	58.6
N.T.	278	121	229.8
A.C.T.	53	233	22.7
Australia	9,500	14,650	64.8

- * Estimated Population as at 30 September 1980 (subject to revision).

Juveniles under detention

The monthly series on the number of children and young persons in residential care and remand centres is under major revision. After a series of meetings, the Welstat National Working Party considered and ratified a new set of statistical standards. These standards were later endorsed by the Social Welfare Administrators' March 1980 Continuation Conference.

These measures change substantially the content and format of the existing series. The new series, which is expected to begin from July 1980, will cover information relating to persons in juvenile corrective institutions as well as children in prisons. Because of this impending change some jurisdictions have stopped sending information on the existing series. It is hoped that the next issue of the *Reporter* will publish data under the new series.

Table 3 Total Prisoners, Federal Prisoners and Remandees as at 1 October 1980

	Total Prisoners	Federal Prisoners	Prisoners Percentage		Remandees per '000 of Gen. Pop.
			on Remand	of Remandees	
N.S.W.	3,366	117	519	15.4	10.1
Vic.	1,762	37	48	2.7	1.2
Qld.	1,640	37	80	4.9	3.6
S.A.	843	8	142	16.8	10.9
W.A.	1,425	52	106	7.4	8.3
Tas.	253	5	17	6.7	4.0
N.T.	276	13	32	11.6	26.4
A.C.T.	53	3	9	17.0	3.9
Australia	9,618	272	953	9.9	6.5

BOOK REVIEWS

WEB OF VIOLENCE: A STUDY OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

By Jean Renvoize

Penguin Books, \$4.95

Reviewer: JOCELYNNE SCUTT, Criminologist, Australian Institute of Criminology.

Jean Renvoize's new book *Web of Violence: A Study of Family Violence* is clearly written by the author of *Children in Danger: The Causes and Prevention of Baby Battering*. Indeed, the suspicion is strong that much of the research material used in the first book has been utilised in the second, and the organisation of chapters leads to a belief that research from the first volume has simply been incorporated into the second under a slightly different guise, in order to make up the number of chapters necessary.

Nine chapters comprise the book. Battered wives, 'children of violence', granny bashing, baby battering and incest are topics covered in five of these, scattered at random throughout. Another chapter is devoted to the law; a further to the issue of refuges; a third deals with the story of a woman who has been the subject of spouse assault, as well as victim of child abuse when living in a family exhibiting violence in many of its forms — including wife beating, baby bashing by both mother and father, and violence between grandparents. The final chapter, headed 'The Search for Answers', looks solely at the problem of the battered baby and ways in which this particular problem may be relieved. The major premise is that ending this problem will lead to the eradication of all forms of domestic abuse.

Web of Violence is a perplexing book, not so much for its subject matter as for the manner in which that subject matter is dealt with. The author vacillates between an acceptance, without any critical analysis or even superficial questioning, of traditional theories of

domestic violence, and outspoken criticism of current attitudes of law enforcement agencies and of the law itself, although such attitudes are undoubtedly intimately interlinked with the very theories that are uninhibitedly embraced by the author herself. The reader is thus swept along with a growing feeling of outrage that biased studies, prejudiced anecdote and slanted comment should be stated as 'truth': a feeling that is replaced, albeit at too infrequent intervals, with an acknowledgment that what the writer is stating in a particular instance is 'spot on' — and in complete variance with what has gone before.

The contradictions in the book bear remarking upon. Thus Renvoize states at various times throughout *Web of Violence* that domestic violence 'cuts across class lines', across lines of race and ethnicity, and so on. Nonetheless she continually stresses the 'lower socio-economic status' of those who are victims of the many forms of domestic violence, and of those who are the perpetrators. Thus Chapter 1 — 'Janet's Story' — leads the reader into a position where it seems that domestic violence is a result of 'brutalisation of babyhood' of the 'lower class' parties involved. The story is told in emotive and unprofessional terms. The de facto spouse who beats his wife is said to have 'the lowering broodiness of a young Heathcliff'. The tale is told in Janet's words, which serves to emphasise the idea that it is those in the ranks of what the 'middle-class' would term 'uneducated' who are mainly involved:

'It was me brought the kids up; Peter, Robert, Mary, Jackie. I had to bring them up. Me mum's an alcoholic now, you see, so's me dad. . .'

If the constantly reiterated assertion that family violence takes place across class lines is to be believed, it would have been bolstered by including in the

book the story, in equally graphic terms, of a 'middle-class' victim of abuse in the home.

The truism that 'violence begets violence' is followed by the example of a man facing 27 charges of alleged sexual offences involving violence to his own children and to six children of a neighbouring family, who was a victim of childhood violence and whose children may show signs of repeating the 'pattern'. Although there is clearly a need for exposure of the enormity of such cases, the problem is that again *Web of Violence* sensationalises what is a serious issue requiring responsible social concern. Undoubtedly these sorts of cases occur with greater frequency than heretofore recognised and every effort must be marshalled to protect the victims; nevertheless it is the less sensational cases, those which frequently fail to be discovered, which will lead to the root of the problem of domestic violence. These should at least be given equal space.

A concentration upon the most extreme cases enables society to ignore the issue of family violence as it occurs in numerous homes — that is, 'small' or 'slight' incidents of abuse, which have a profound effect upon the victim, upon the protagonist, and upon interaction among all our members of society. There is a failure in *Web of Violence* to recognise that it is not only 'violence' of the extreme sort that 'begets violence'. Rather, it is the very nature of our institutions and of the philosophies subscribed to in our society — a reliance upon the ultimate weapon of war as a means of 'subduing' other nations; the use of violence in subduing peaceful demonstrations against government policies; the uncaring nature of a society that enables unemployment and other social service benefits to fall way below the poverty line that begets the violence that presently appears to be endemic in our society.

The chapter dealing with the law and its inability to deal with

domestic violence is a relief to read. Renvoize points out that the law as it stands would be adequate – if only police would apply it. She rightly criticises the variable practices of different police officers and police forces:

‘Whether or not. . . a woman is given protection depends to a considerable extent on whether the particular police [officer] who happens to be around at the time of the assault is sympathetic or hard, a man with a happy marriage or one with a. . . wife he can hardly bear.’

She concludes police should be given firm and clear instructions as to how they ought to deal with domestic violence, and that they should be given adequate training to enable them to properly play their role of law enforcer in cases of assault between members of families.

This chapter is not matched elsewhere in the book, however. Preceding it there is comment as to ‘studies’ of women who being ‘married to jealous men would provoke [their husbands] by flirting at staff dances, by going without their husbands to dances and returning late, or setting up situations with their mothers (who often egged them on) which implied infidelity, even though the wives were in fact perfectly faithful’. Apparently this explains domestic violence. Yet what form the ‘flirting’ took is not mentioned: would the fact that a woman accepted a dance with a man, not her husband, be ‘flirting’? is a wife expected to remain mute at the sides of the dance floor, waiting only until her spouse chooses to dance with her? if she does not, is that ‘provocation’? What of the case of the woman ‘going out and returning late’: is a wife expected to remain at home unless she can be escorted out by her husband? is ‘going out’ alone ‘provocation’? does any ‘provocation’ justify abuse and violence? Renvoize raises none of these issues.

Indeed, Renvoize goes on to make comment as to women ‘withholding sex’, thus ‘provoking’ scenes of violence. She states:

‘How frequently violence is caused by such provocation, and how frequently a totally innocent woman is battered through no fault of hers other than an original misjudgment in the choice of marriage partner, no one knows.’

Thus is entire responsibility tossed upon the woman who is victim of an attack by an abusive spouse: either the wife has ‘provoked’ the attack (simply by exercising a right which should be hers – that of choice as to the when, where and whom of sexual activities), or she has been ‘foolish’ in misjudging her choice of spouse! No women as winners in this book.

Following this, Renvoize concludes that much provocation is ‘obviously unintentional on the part of the wife’. She then alludes to the issue of pregnancy as ‘provoking’ many men to violence . . . yet it is difficult to see how any woman could at all be held responsible for ‘provoking’ a man because she was pregnant, nor how her pregnancy could be classified as ‘unintentional provocation’ on her part, or ‘unintentional responsibility’ for her victimisation by a brutal husband. Surely it is just such an ‘analysis’ that the feminist movement, aided by responsible research and writing on the subject, has been seeking to confront since the early seventies? *Web of Violence* serves as an unfortunate signpost pointing back the other way. Certainly, it is a warning of the upward path ahead.

THE ECONOMICS OF CRIME
Edited by Ralph Andreano and John J. Siegfried
Schenkman Publishing Company,
Massachusetts. 426 pp.
Cloth \$22.75 — Paper \$14.70
Reviewer: K.J. ADBY, Barrister
and Solicitor, Canberra.

The Economics of Crime is a

collection of some 20 articles and papers principally written by economists on that subject. The articles included were all first published in the period 1964 to 1978. All but two of them were, however, published after 1968 and the majority after 1971. The editors in their introduction emphasise this very point: a decade ago the assembly of such a collection, in their opinion, would not have been possible due to the very limited amount of research by economists that had taken place up to that time.

The editors, in selecting articles for inclusion, have had a teaching objective in mind. In selecting articles they have placed considerable emphasis on those writings which concentrated on fundamental concepts and the economist’s particular peculiar conceptualisation of problems and issues. No apology is made for this approach and although the result is sometimes a one-sided conceptualisation and the presentation, in isolation from other issues, of the economist’s solution, the book is not merely directed to students of economics. Because of the balance achieved by the editors in selecting articles representing a wide spectrum of views held by the members of a single discipline the book will be of interest to a far wider audience. It provides a useful collection of research and of opinions which will be of interest to any ‘student’ of crime and of its impact on society in the wider sense.

The articles, though they cover a far broader area than the groupings may indicate, have been divided into six groupings. In the first under the heading, ‘Economic Approaches to the Study of Crime’, five articles are grouped. They illustrate with equal force both the diversity of the issues involved and the lack of any basic or common approach to the economic analysis of crime. ‘Criminals/Victims/Police’ is the title of the second group. Punishment, its deterrence qualities and the deter-

mination of the optimum level of enforcement are the main themes represented.

Accepting that there will continue to be both crime and enforcement under grouping III – Courts, procedures and systems of the existing judicial administration are subjected to economic analysis. An economic foundation is suggested for the analysis of the judicial system as a whole and attempts made to apply economic analysis to the bail and jury system. The policy objectives of 'Corrections' is the subject matter of group IV and this in the editors' view is the area least researched; thinking is still in the formative stage.

While other groupings have dealt with crime in general the final two 'Narcotics' and 'Organised Crime' deal with particular but often related areas. The need to establish policies, objectives and levels of acceptance are emphasised. In the Buchanan article on organised crime a seemingly logical conclusion resulting from adopting a pure, if narrow economic approach to this problem is drawn. Buchanan, endorsing the continuing relevance of the beliefs of the 18th Century social philosophers, Mandeville, Hume and Smith that the self-interests of men can be made to serve social purpose under the appropriate institutional arrangements, puts forward the view that monopoly in organised crime may be socially desirable and also a stable equilibrium solution.

Many of the theories, arguments and particularly the solutions presented by the various authors will be at variance, if not in complete conflict, with those which have or would be suggested by other economists or representatives of other disciplines. Several of the authors, Becker in particular (though his assertion is not included in that part of the article extracted), commence their approach to research with the premise that any useful theory of criminal behaviour should dispense with virtually every hypothesis previously put forward in criminological literature and instead concentrate on the

extension of the economist's usual analysis of choice. Such a point of commencement is hardly likely to be accepted without challenge by less philosophically committed readers. Much of the value of the collection to the non economist reader is, however, in the fact of presentation of these and other far more radical views. In the case of students using the collection within the context of another discipline the very novelty of some of the views represented may encourage the questioning of underlying biases and assumptions of their own discipline.

Some of the chronologically earlier articles are more extreme and in several instances rely on simplistic models which suffer from having accepted the Becker challenge and totally rejected all the criminological literature and research that preceded economists discovering crime. Later articles are, in most cases, more refined and show a mellowing of extreme approaches. In some cases earlier theories of academic criminologists and social researchers have been utilised and given a dual and sometimes firmer base. The result is that earlier theories are, through further examination from a different perspective, now being backed up by economic analysis, independent theories and empirical studies. The Evan's study on parole, though it was in fact an early article (1968), demonstrates this aspect.

One perhaps trifling, but annoying, aspect of the book is that in a large number of cases there is a complete absence of any background material on the author. While this might be obtained from going to the original source the necessity for this defeats one of the purposes of the work. Against this an extremely useful final chapter provides a literature review on the 'Economics of Crime, Law Enforcement and the Institutions of Justice'. References ranging from original source material and reports of Government studies through to empirical studies and elementary text books are included. An interesting ultimate para-

graph emphasises the need for any serious researcher to consult not only economic journals but also the literature of sociology, psychology, criminology and law.

Though the editors claim a teaching objective as their impetus, and without underrating the value of their work relative to that objective, I feel this book will be of interest to a wider group of readers. If the economic analysis of crime and many associated issues is relatively new to economists it is still newer to, and not without its opponents in, other fields. Although U.S. experiences and studies are relied upon, many of the principles and concepts have universal application – others have less questionable application outside the U.S. context because of the procedures or practices unique to that jurisdiction. The work provides an easily accessible collection of a number of works representing a variety of differing approaches to crime related issues which may form the basis for further understanding or, at least, for informed dissent. In a time when virtually any program involving expenditure whether it be directed at protection, prevention or enforcement, is likely to be subject to close scrutiny by funding authorities, the ability to back up sociological objectives with economic reasoning is not likely to go astray.

Research grants

The Criminology Research Council is seeking applications for research grants from individuals and organisations for projects likely to produce results of relevance for the prevention and control of crime throughout Australia. Projects designed to evaluate currently effective measures are particularly invited.

Application forms are available from Registrars of all Australian Universities or from the Assistant Secretary, Australian Institute of Criminology, P.O. Box 28, Woden. A.C.T. 2606.



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