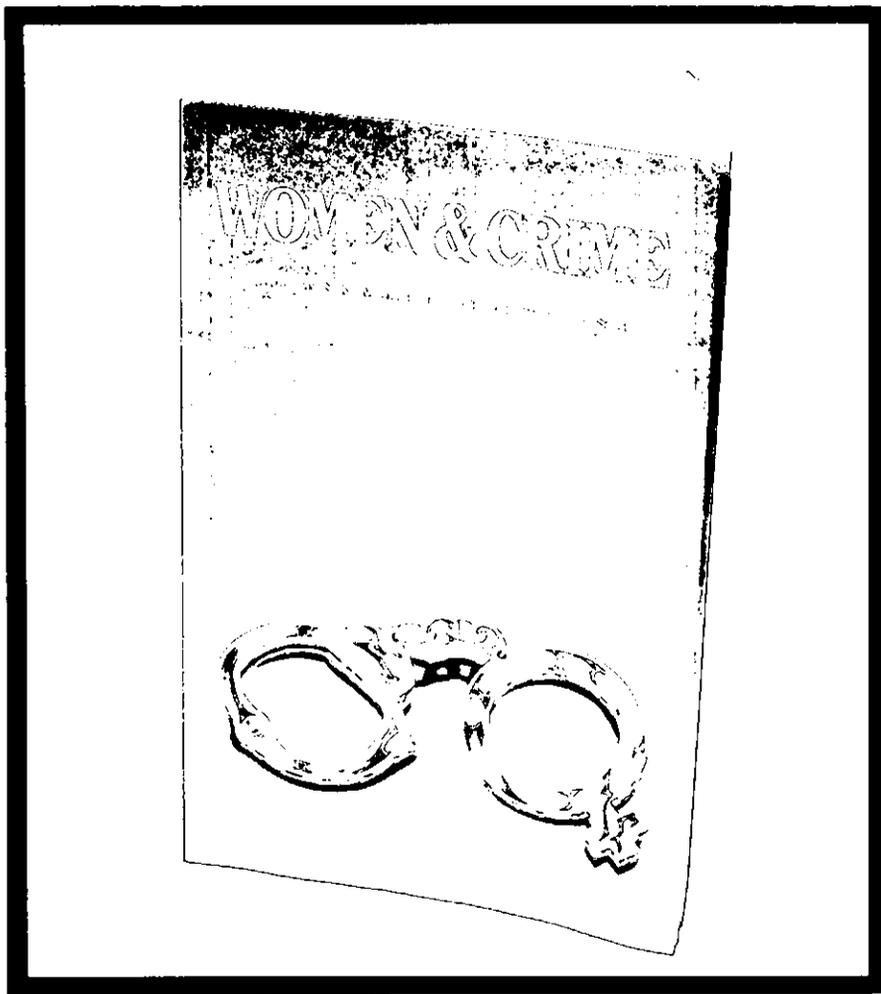


reporter



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(Publications continued inside back page)

COVER PHOTOGRAPH: Australian Institute of Criminology's publication *Women and Crime* edited by Dr Satyanshu Mukherjee and Dr Jocelyne Scutt. (See New Publications, page 10).

reporter

Prisoner exchange to be discussed in Bangkok

The recent attempted coup in Bangkok made it likely that the venue for the Second Asian and Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators would have to be held somewhere else. As Secretariat for the Conference, the Australian Institute of Criminology was relieved when notice arrived that the Conference would go ahead as planned from 6-10 July. In the hope of advancing the cause of a prisoner exchange in this region such as is operated by treaty between the U.S. and Mexico, the U.S. and Canada and between these and certain European and South American countries, the Conference will address the issue of prisoner exchange as it is viewed by correctional administrators. It is appropriate that such discussions should take place in Thailand where drug offenders from several countries, including Australia are serving extended sentences. Also on the agenda are subjects such as prison labour, the rights of those in a prison setting and it is hoped that up-to-date information on corrections in the region will be made available for publication.

While this conference is a meeting of functionaries only — and there is no power to commit governments in any way — it is worth remembering that from just such meetings of functionaries of the penal systems in Europe, the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners were formulated — and (some 25 years later) adopted by the United Nations. Similarly a great many of the improvements in prison conditions stemmed from the work of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission a body of mainly U.S. and European correctional administrations which functioned until it handed over its work to the United Nations in 1950.

A similar structure of cooperation between correctional administrators in the Asian and Pacific Region has been needed for some time. With distances so great and cultural settings so varied regional collaboration has been more difficult to achieve. That it has been possible at all is due to the Institute's initiatives strongly supported by Hong Kong and countries like Thailand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Papua and New Guinea and others. Australia and New Zealand authorities will be strongly represented in Bangkok but only Western Australia attended the first Conference in Hong Kong in 1980.

It is important when all the political, scientific and cultural forms of regional cooperation are being promoted and sponsored by governments that the need for cooperation in law enforcement and corrections should not be overlooked.

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William Clifford

DIRECTOR'S DIGEST

The world is still reeling from its 'one-two' shock of successive assassination attempts.* The attack on the President was bad enough but that occurred in America where at least the incredible can be expected. But then the shooting of the Pope, that symbol of religious leadership, in circumstances for which even the most thorough journalistic research found it could not unearth a precedent.

Of course, religious leaders have been shot before — notably Gandhi, who was paradoxically the high priest of non-violence — but this rare event following so closely on the heels of the attack on President Reagan seemed to presage something more horrible than most people wanted to contemplate.

It seemed as if a whole new era of frightfulness had been suddenly unleashed and a great deal of confidence in the bases of our civilised way of life evaporated in those few dramatic weeks.

When such world shattering events occur, the criminologist is in an invidious situation. If he tries to place the incidents within a context of more general crime — or to assess them in terms of the total criminal danger to the people, he appears to have missed their deeper political significance and he may even be thought so urbane as to be insensitive to the people's very real sense of outrage.

If, on the other hand, he shares the shock, seems to be shaken by the unexpected, or at a loss for words, he hardly seems like a specialist who should know about such things. His best academic posture is to say nothing until all the facts are known and there can be a calm unemotional appraisal of the incidents.

By that time, however, the media being what it is, there is likely to be little interest in whatever he may have to say. All of which is by way of being a caveat to the observations which follow and which are made in advance of full information about the assassination attempts.

In fact, despite their outrageousness which any civilised person, criminologist or not, should be able to feel, the events were not all that surprising. They were indeed classic examples of what should have been expected. The security men may have been taken unawares when the shots were aimed at the President but they performed with commendable presence of mind, simply because the situation was one for which they had trained.

The President himself must have known that his hand shaking, baby-kissing, head patting style of politics made him vulnerable. It had happened so often before; and he had both the Ford and Wallace examples to go by.

The second shooting was an act of pure terrorism, for which events over the past decade should have prepared the authorities at least. For it is of the essence of terrorism to petrify the people by desecrating the things they hold most dear or most sacred and inviolable.

After all, there is nothing quite like that to rivet public attention and that is what the assassin wants. The older theory that such a violation of the sacred world generates an unholy rage that would crush any further impiety has weaknesses in a modern democracy which the terrorists have well understood.

They have done their crowd psychology: they know that a violent blasphemy, boldly executed, can sap the will to resist

and eventually undermine the people's confidence in their forces of law and order. The rage can be displaced in time from the perpetrators of the outrage to the services that were supposed to prevent it.

Once again it can scarcely be imagined that the Pope's security advisers did not know this. In his travels abroad it had received detailed attention. The security forces of other countries had not wanted to take that risk without adequate precautions.

Now that the world is beginning to feel itself gingerly for what normality it may still have left, there are some serious questions for the criminologist — and for Australia. First the official security reaction is thoroughly predictable. More men, less risk by keeping the crowds at a distance and more technical precautions like bullet-proof vests.

After all, the public has to be convinced that something is being done. All this is likely to leave completely unmoved any other assassins who may be waiting in the wings. It is no more than what they would have expected. It only means that they must plan more carefully in future and choose their opportunities with more ingenuity.

However, the kidnapping of Moro in Italy, the clever way that attacks were planned to be made on De Gaulle and the killing of the Turkish Consul-General in Sydney are indications of their capacity for innovation when necessary. They still have in their repertoire things like remotely controlled

* There were actually three attempts, one of which was successful. The murder of the Hesse Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Heinz Herbert Karry in West Germany on 11 May passed relatively unnoticed.

The criminology of assassination

Following up the comments in the Director's Digest, the Australian Institute of Criminology held a seminar for Canberra diplomats from various countries on the 'Criminology of Assassination' and the 'Comparability of Crime as between Countries'. On 22 June 1981, delegates from a wide range of countries gathered at the Institute to discuss the problems as they arose in a diplomatic setting.

This was not intended to be a full scale examination of the problems of assassination but an opportunity for diplomatic representatives to express their views and for the Institute to benefit

from their experiences. Diplomats are not only potential victims but are frequently instrumental in developing international cooperation in criminal justice.

There has been considerable public interest in the subject of assassination and the Director provided an article some months ago on contract killing which was published in *The Bulletin*.

In the same context the Director of the AIC appeared on the Mike Walsh Show on 29 May to answer questions on the incidence and background to assassination and terrorism generally.

Obviously there is no monopoly of expertise in dealing with problems of assassination. Politics are

involved and the social and criminal sciences are still compiling data on which future understanding and prevention might be based.

In responding to the demand for information, the Institute is merely contributing whatever it is able to contribute to the effort to explain and hopefully to prevent such behaviour.

As interest mounts the Institute's library will prepare bibliographies and informational material for those who may be interested in further study. A pamphlet has already been produced on hijacking and Dr Grant Wardlaw of the Institute has just completed a book on political terrorism. ®

(continued from Page 2)

bombs, anti-personnel devices and a variety of Kamikaze methods.

It has frequently been said that there can be no protection against a determined killer prepared to sacrifice his own life: but this is not quite true — if it were, then tyrants would not last so long. It clearly depends on the quality of the security.

A close scrutiny of the countries selected for terrorist attack reveals discrimination being exercised by the terrorists. They usually know where they can strike with most hope of success. Total security means absolute immobility: and since this is undesirable in a country which respects freedom of movement, effective security is a matter of experience, the capacity to anticipate the moves of the killer and of the extent to which the community can be involved. Training, mental agility, political acumen and a good imagination are more important than simple additions to manpower.

The psychologists and psychiatrists will be busy drawing their profiles of the typical assassin in terms of parental and sibling relationships, failure and frustration in present society and the eventual self-election of such personalities to their dual roles of

judge and executioner. Each new event provides further data for the profiles.

However, our real problem is that we do not know the distribution throughout the general population of people with similar profiles. This renders the typology academically suspect and, in practical terms of prevention, there may be far too many to watch. And since only an occasional one of these commits a crime, the advantage of the profile may be only that it eliminates large numbers we (apparently) need not worry about.

Politicians and a variety of social scientists will be looking at the grievances at home and abroad, at all the injustice, at the 'violence' of economic deprivation and at the discrimination which produces people who really don't care if they kill. It is obvious that these things must have attention in their own right: but it can be argued that there were less assassinations when conditions were worse and that there may be less violence of this kind where, across the world, people are most sorely oppressed.

There will never be a time when the world is so perfect that no-one can feel the sense of injustice, real or imagined, which spurs the assassin. And, of course, if politics

make terrorism, it is also true that terrorism can make its own political justification.

That Australia is not immune to terrorism has already been established. The first line of defence now is not more technical hardware but the determination of the people to resist it. From government to those with grievances to air, there has to be a resistance to violence, whether home-grown or imported.

People generally have to make their weight felt and the authorities need to strive for more unity than division. We need to know a great deal more about the 'risks' being created within the community by changes in the home, school and in the development of chronic unemployment.

Finally, the criminal justice systems have to be overhauled and refurbished in line with the several reports already before the governments of this country. ®

BOOK REVIEWERS NEEDED

The *Reporter* is seeking book reviewers. If you are interested in doing reviews, please write to us, stating your interests and we will be happy to send you books for review. We cannot pay reviewers but they do get free copies of the books they review.

High car theft rate

Australia has been found to have a significantly higher rate for motor vehicle theft than the United States.

This surprise finding emerged following the comparison of the results of an Australian National Crime Victims Survey with an American Crime Victims Survey.

In a joint paper, *Crime Victimization in Australia: A comparison with the U.S.* published in the third volume of the 1980 *American Journal of Crime and Justice*, the Assistant Director (Research) of the Australian Institute of Criminology, Mr David Biles and criminologist, Dr John Braithwaite stated that the survey revealed a rate of 757 motor vehicle thefts per 100,000 in Australia compared to 546 per 100,000 in the U.S.

The researchers said that even if they were to attempt to enter a correction for the fact that the American rate was for the population 12 and over, while the Australian rate was for the population 15 and over, they could still not explain away the fact that the Australian rate was 39 per cent higher.

The Australian survey which covered basically the 1974-75 fiscal year was carried out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, while the American survey which



The contents of the glove compartment of a stolen car are checked by Federal Police for ownership identification

(Photos courtesy of Australian Federal Police)



covered the 1975 calendar year, was conducted by the Law Enforcement Assistance Commission.

The L.E.A.C. survey was based on interviews conducted in 60,000 homes with 135,000 persons, while the Australian victims survey included only 8,414 households and 18,694 persons.

The Australian survey, even though smaller, was the largest of its type ever conducted in Australia and canvassed a higher proportion of the population than did the American survey.

Both surveys studied the following crime categories: Break and Enter; Motor Vehicle Theft; Theft; Fraud, Forgery, False Pretences; Rape and Attempted Rape; Robbery; and Assault.

A comparison of victim-reported with police-recorded crime rates showed that the Australian crime rates estimated from the National Crime Victims Survey varied from

just under twice as high as the rate based on police records of reported crime in the case of break and enter, and up to 16 times as high in the case of rape.

The researchers also found that police-reported crime rates differed from victim survey rates because they included victims under 15 years of age, whereas the victimization survey only covered persons 15 years of age and older.

The police rates are therefore per 100,000 of the total population, while the survey rates are per 100,000 of the population 15 years and over living in localities with a population of at least 500.

They said both the fact that rural areas and children under 15 were excluded from the victim survey should serve to inflate the victim survey rates when compared to the police-recorded rates.

Mr Biles and Dr Braithwaite were surprised to find that in spite of America's generally higher crime rate, the victim-reported

rate for rape in Australia (95 per 100,000) was slightly higher than that in the U.S.A. (86 per 100,000).

However they pointed out that these figures were not strongly reliable because of high standard error.

**757 MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS
PER 100,000 IN AUSTRALIA
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UNITED STATES**

They emphasised that care must be taken with an offence like assault which had a vaguely specified meaning even so far as the courts were concerned, because of the considerable cultural differences in interviewers' and respondents' interpretations of what constituted an assault.

They went on to say that attention ought to be paid to Australian males between the ages of 15 and 25 years, being the age

group which perpetrated the greatest majority of rapes, assaults and motor vehicle thefts.

For example, they said the young male in Australia regarded sexual conquest as a guarantee of peer group status, and the ownership of an automobile as a means of attracting the attention and companionship of females.

If women were regarded as objects of sexual gratification, they said, and automobiles the more central concerns of Australian youth than in other countries, then the level of rape and car theft in Australia should come as no surprise.

Mr Biles and Dr Braithwaite found that on all other property crime categories, break and enter, robbery with violence and theft, the American rate was at least twice as high as the Australian rate.

Copies of the published paper are available on request to the authors. ®



Inspection being made of the contents of the boot of a stolen vehicle for offender identification

Link in computer systems

The Australian Institute of Criminology is to provide a link between information systems personnel serving the police, the courts, the prisons and related organisations across Australia.

There is also a possibility of a start being made on a pilot study of the computerisation of sentences in New South Wales and South Australia.

These results emerged during a week long seminar entitled 'The Use of Computers in the Criminal Justice System' held at the Institute in April.

The Director of the AIC, Mr William Clifford told the seminar that there was a tendency for one system to re-create the wheel because of its lack of knowledge of other systems.

He also said, the courts and correctional services needed to catch up to the police in the use of computers.

This could be achieved by more widely developing and combining computers within courts and by making them more easily available.

Mr Clifford said this would result in revolutionary developments in police, courts and corrections in the years to come.

The seminar was launched following a field trip interstate by Senior Research Officer at the AIC, Mr John Walker who found evidence of inter-departmental communication within States, but a lack of exchange of information between them.

At the conclusion of the seminar Mr Walker said that a greater awareness of what was happening in the different states and services around Australia had been developed.

In his opening address to the seminar, Mr Clifford warned of the dangers of dehumanisation through modern technology.

He said the need to construct computer systems which would not be barriers to human communication was an aspect of computerisation more important to society and crime prevention than the deprecation associated

with computer crime.

He said, America even with its massive expenditure on law enforcement hardware, had found that it could not really help a community to reduce its crime as long as people did not want to be involved.

Mr Clifford predicted an escalation of detached living which he said fitted in well with family disintegration, selfishness and the lack of caring which characterised society.

It was to be expected he said, that there was a measure of growing social distance and detachment within the computer industry.

He said while it was necessary to survey the range of modern computer crime there was also a need to survey the range of computer assistance in crime prevention.

But he said, although police in America for instance were able to obtain computer read-outs on many aspects of crime, the de-personalised efficiency of such systems carried dangers for the

systems themselves because of the tendency to work at arms length from other agencies and departments.

As well as the danger of isolation he said, the taxpayers' money could be wasted if care was not taken to investigate procedures in use elsewhere, the possibilities for integration, and the opportunities for coordination of the work being done by different types of computers and information systems around the country.

Mr Clifford said that communication between information systems experts must be improved and techniques refined to make sure that there was a best return for investment.

He described as serious and potentially costly the desire for computer personnel to be completely independent and able to satisfy their needs without having to rely on others.

In conclusion Mr Clifford told the seminar that if people wanted to become more involved with others they had to develop better lines of communication. ®



Participants at the seminar 'The Use of Computers in the Criminal Justice System' held on the 6-9 April, from left to right: Mr D. Quirk, Mr R. Armstrong, Mr C. O'Connor, Department of Community Welfare Services, Melbourne; and Mr R. Gregor, Supreme Court of South Australia

Book display

The Australian Institute of Criminology took part in a book display during March/April, as part of an international gathering of publishers.

The display, entitled 'Crime, the Law and You' was mounted in the barristers chambers of the Commonwealth Bank in William Street, Melbourne by the Law Book Company Ltd.

At the invitation of the Law Book Company, the AIC contributed display material and a selected range of its publications including the Annual Reports of both the Criminology Research Council and the AIC, the *International Diary and Information Bulletin*.

A new leaflet explaining the role of the AIC was also distributed at the display.

The display was advertised nationally in the *Australian Federal Police Journal*, *Australian Police Journal*, *The Criminal Law Journal* and at every police station in Victoria.

During the first week of the ten-day display the Officer-in-Charge of the Publications Section of the Institute, Mr Jack Sandry, and Journalist and Editor of the *Reporter*, Mr Barry Looms were on hand to supervise the mounting of the Institute's publications and to answer queries about the AIC's trade terms.

Mr Michael Brogden of the Law Book Company confirmed that many orders had been placed for



Institute publications were shown at the display 'Crime, the Law and You'

AIC publications at the display which had received broad publicity. The display had been well patronised by members of the public as well as law enforcement officers, the legal profession and others involved with the criminal justice system.

The display coincided with the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Book Publishers Association at the Southern Cross Hotel, the International Book Trade Fair at the Hotel Hilton, and the Australian Book Design Awards presentation. ®

SY.E.T.P. Training

Staff at the Australian Institute of Criminology have made welcome a new temporary research assistant.

Charnis Pinnawela from Colombo, Sri Lanka, has been employed at the Institute for four months under the Special Youth Employment Training Program, (SYETP), initiated by the Department of

Employment and Youth Affairs.

It is the first visit to Australia by Charnis, who was educated in Colombo at St Bridget's Convent.

Later she studied at the University of Peradeniya where she majored in sociology and philosophy.

While in Australia, Charnis intends to undertake studies in psychology in Western Australia.

Charnis recently completed her first bibliography 'Police and Psychology', and is currently engaged with a second, 'Police and Education'.

She then intends to prepare a third bibliography, 'Police and Social Perspectives'.

Charnis plans to specialise in child psychology and adolescent behaviour. ®

It rubs off!

In 1975 Miss Anna Riley was the secretary to the first director of the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Later she married, and became Mrs Anna Blundell, moving with her family to Fiji.

She found it difficult to get away from criminology however, and a few weeks ago contributed a personal article which unfortunately we have not been able to reproduce in full.

When considering the diversities in character, culture and religion between the two major ethnic groups in Fiji, it is surprising that the crime rate is not higher. Indians, both Moslem and Hindu, account for more than 51 per cent of the total population, Fijians make up nearly 46 per cent and the remaining 3 per cent is comprised of Europeans, Chinese and other South Pacific Islanders.

Almost without exception, the criminals are either Fijian or Indian and the crimes tend to be committed against people of their own race, although 'grudge' crimes by Fijians against more affluent Indians do occur. Law enforcers, however, are taken from all the ethnic groups. Present Fijian law is based on the English legal system and, indeed, until recently, the Chief Justice was appointed from England. Before the complete adoption of the British penal code, a village 'bulli' system existed. This gave the responsibility for judgement and punishment to the village elders and proved very effective. However, with the increase in the Indian population, since their arrival in Fiji as indentured labour one hundred years ago, it has been necessary to augment, and later replace, the 'bulli' system with a more conventional set of laws applicable to everyone.

The types of crimes perpetrated in Fiji are not varied. Petty theft, rape, fraud and murder are the most prevalent and all of these seem to be spontaneous, rather

than premeditated. Drug offences are committed exclusively by foreigners and tourists. Because Her Majesty's Customs have a reputation for being less than diligent, Fiji is used as an entry point for drug peddlers who transfer to the United States of America or Australia, where they can mingle with the tourists returning from holiday. On occasions, the Customs officers receive 'tip offs' concerning the entry of drugs and, if apprehended, these criminals are not exempted from normal justice, nor are they treated with any extra degree of severity. Indeed, a young New Zealand girl is currently serving a long gaol sentence in one of Fiji's prisons, having been apprehended as a courier for a drug syndicate.

The motives or 'mitigating circumstances' change according to the culture of the criminal, but the consumption of alcohol is the major contributing factor to the high incidence of these crimes. As a race, Fijians are not inveterate drinkers of alcohol. Their traditional national drink is 'yaqona' or 'kava' which is a mild narcotic made from the powdered root of a plant from the pepper-tree family, mixed with water. Custom dictates that a 'bilo' (half a coconut shell used as a drinking vessel) of this 'grog' must be consumed straight down. 'Matha, matha' is the traditional expression chanted by the group in great reverence, especially at important ceremonies, to indicate that the bilo is empty in one draught. This habit is adopted when drinking beer and spirits, rendering the drinkers inebriated in a very short time. In addition, there has been a marked increase in the consumption of methylated spirits due, say meths users, to its relative cheapness and fast, intoxicating effect and in spite of its awful taste. Fijians call methylated spirits 'fly' for obvious reasons. Although there has been considerable pressure on the government to pass legislation restricting the sale of methylated spirits to the public, the only concession

made so far is to insist that the spirits are coloured to deter would-be drinkers, and that they be instilled with the smell of vinegar. Some suppliers have lost sales as a result of this ruling, and the more enterprising of shopkeepers strain the coloured meths through a loaf of bread, which filters out the offending colour, and probably also the smell.

Recourse to alcohol in Fiji turns violent offences into grisly crimes. Recently a group of six drunken young men beat and gang-raped a young woman, who died of her injuries where they left her.

An argument over a song at a meths drinking party left two men dead and badly mutilated after an attack with cane knives (or machetes).

After a late night drinking party to celebrate the end of the cane-cutting season, a man drowned after being hit with a stone, when an argument broke out whilst the revellers were swimming.

Two drunken young men threw a cement slab at a twelve year old boy, kicked his face and head until he became unconscious, and left him to die.

An Indian man returned home drunk and on learning that his wife had prepared nothing for him to eat, poured petrol over her and set her alight.

All these examples illustrate how especially violently the people of Fiji react after drinking considerable amounts of alcohol.

Crimes resulting from environmental, cultural and religious stimuli are also common, and exacerbated by alcohol. Sugar is the major industry in Fiji and the finely honed cane knives carried by all workers employed in cane-cutting make a handy, but deadly weapon. A Sigatoka man attacked his wife with a cane knife, intending to decapitate her. He severed one arm instead and badly injured the other.

Both Fijians and Indians are affected by the cultural and religious influences. Witchcraft is

(continued on Page 9)

Firearms - rights and risks

Soon after its establishment the Criminology Research Council funded a project to survey the Australian position on firearms and their use. Last year this resulted in a book authored by Professor Richard Harding of the University of Western Australia.

The Institute has now co-sponsored with the University of Western Australia's department of University Extension a seminar on Firearms which will be held from 25-28 June in Perth.

Thereafter the subject of firearms control will be part of a two day seminar to be held at the Institute in Canberra on 29-30 June.

For a great many people there is no doubt at all that firearms and especially hand guns are so dangerous that they make the gravest crimes easier to commit; that they are the refuge of the unstable and politically menacing; and that their production, sale, purchase and use should be tightly controlled.

Accidents with guns, they argue, would alone justify an official interest in their distribution and use throughout the country.

There are other people including a powerful and well organised minority who regard ownership of firearms to be part of human rights. They point out that firearms, for all their deadliness, are used in a minority of crimes and account for only a small proportion of accidents in the country.

They object to controls which never stop criminals from getting weapons and only serve to disarm the innocent. They believe people should not be exposed to the totalitarian risk of only those in power possessing weapons.

Probably neither group has any objection to some form of registration and licensing. Differences arise on its extent and effect. Differences are also found on the types of licensing authorities.

Some States have given total authority to the police; others require police reports but give the authority to an administrative agency.

There may be argument about how much the State may be willing to pay for total control, regular investigations or inspections.

Are answers to questions on an application form to be believed; is a scanning of police records adequate; to what extent should an application to possess a gun mean a home visit and neighbourhood investigation?

A thorough control might involve occasional searches for arms. And of course the definition of a 'firearm', 'handgun' etc. produces its own complications in these days of sophisticated variations of the traditional revolvers, automatics, shotguns and rifles. The sub-machine gun has been reduced in size. In some places there is no control at all over shotguns.

It seems that Australia is not so badly placed as some countries but there is dissatisfaction with the extent and efficiency of the control and the federal system sometimes means that weapons not obtainable in one state may be ordered from another. ®

(continued from Page 8)

feared and respected by the Fijians.

Recently a youth killed another man he maintained had caused his father's death through witchcraft. A girl was imprisoned for obtaining money for healing the sick through the medium of witchcraft.

Many Indians uphold a strong moral code within their families and still advocate arranged marriages.

An Indian father killed his daughter for being seen with a man in a field, even though her virtue remained intact.

Another Indian forced his eight year old son, by a de facto relationship, to swallow liquid bleach and he drank the rest of the bottle himself, when faced with the prospect of an arranged marriage to another woman. Although he

survived, his son died.

Fiji, as anywhere, is by no means crime-free, but it is a relatively law-abiding nation with a crime record that would be envied by many countries.

Crime we are told, is on the downward turn in Fiji. The latest statistics released show a 4 per cent drop in 1980, over 1979 figures, in the total number of crimes committed, and a 24 per cent drop in the number of violent crimes committed.

More stringent control on the sale of alcohol, including methylated spirits, especially to minors, the introduction of alternative activities for the youth of Fiji when unemployed and a stronger, more comprehensive training program for the police force will see an even bigger improvement in these already hopeful statistics.

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.

New Institute publications

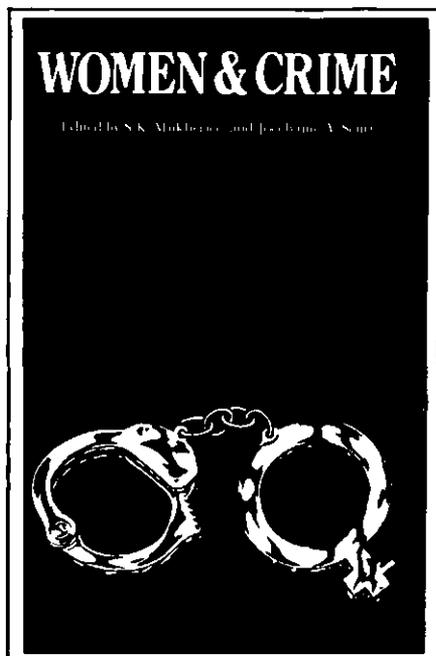
Do the laws and rules discriminate against women? How has the society dealt with women in general and women offenders and victims of offences in particular? Has the re-emergence of various women's movements resulted in increases in crimes by women?

These are some of the questions which the new book on *Women and Crime* seek to answer. The book edited by Satyanshu K. Mukherjee and Jocelyne A. Scutt is a joint publication of the Australian Institute of Criminology and George Allen & Unwin Australia.

One of the major assumptions implicit in most research work on crimes by women is that various women's movements have led to increases in female criminality. Causal inferences of this kind would tend to suggest that women are committing more and more violent and property offences rather than offences against morality; in other words, women are engaging in behaviour that hitherto has been the domain of men. Furthermore, from the literature one obtains the impression that the entire thrust of the various women's movements is to emulate the male sex. Systematic analysis of Australian criminal justice statistics seem to dispel the causal relationship between women's movements and crime. The analysis revealed that during the entire twentieth century the rate of increase in violent crimes by women has been slower than that of males. With regard to property crimes, only since the mid 1960s has the female rates increased faster than those of males.

The nine essays in the book represent various aspects dealing with women and the criminal justice system and form the first effort to bring together original Australian material. The essays, generally based on fact, strongly recommend that the criminal justice system, as other parts of the legal system, must rearrange itself to take into full consideration equal rights of women and their equal right to participate not only in making the law but in being properly accommodated by common law and current legislation.

The volume is based on papers delivered at a conference on 'Women and Crime' held at the Australian Institute of Criminology. *Copies of the book can be purchased from the Publications section of the Institute or from George Allen & Unwin Australia, at a cost of \$8.95 paperback and \$16.95 hardback plus postage.*

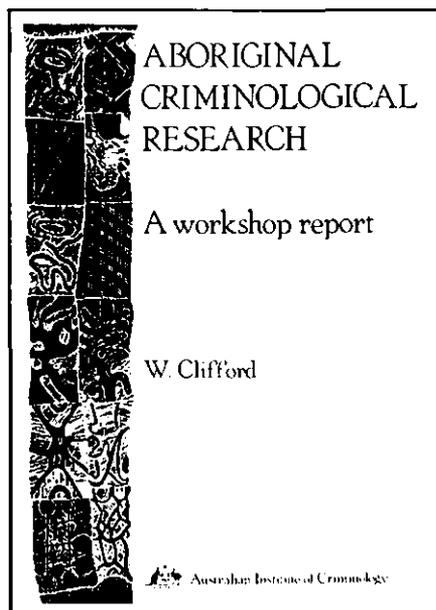


This report records a more active involvement by the Australian Institute of Criminology in Aboriginal crime and criminal justice. Henceforth the Institute will develop (to the extent of its limited resources) a data bank for information necessary for Aboriginal Criminological Research. The workshop was originally promoted by Mr T.A. Walsh Q.C., a member of the Board of Management who had a concern that there should be more Institute involvement in this difficult area. The Institute had held a number of seminars on 'Aborigines and the Law' and on 'Customary Law', but had, until now, not staked a precise claim. At the workshop, the Institute indicated it was more than willing to take a more positive role but could move only within the limits of its reduced staff and budget.

The report has been produced by Mr W. Clifford, the Institute's Director, who personally chaired the sessions and wrote the proceedings.

The parlous social conditions of many aborigines and the disproportion of their contact with the criminal justice system are undoubtedly related to a number of political and economic questions. To resolve these however, as much light as heat is required and in moving carefully into a new role the Institute hopes to develop better information on which enlightened and effective policies can be based.

Copies of Aboriginal Criminological Research are available from the Publications section of the Institute at \$2.85 per copy, plus postage.



REVIEW OF AUSTRALIAN CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Edited by
David Biles



Australian Institute of Criminology

In the last issue of the *Reporter* there was a complete account of a seminar held to review criminological research. The brief outlines of over 40 current and recently completed research projects are now contained in a new publication *Review of Criminological Research*.

The seminar which generated the papers contained in the publication was the second of its type conducted by the Institute. It aimed to encourage comment and criticism with a view to improving the quality of criminological research in Australia.

The 1981 seminar was distinguished from the earlier one by the participation of forensic scientists whose research style contrasted sharply with that adopted by the social scientists and lawyers.

Review of Criminological Research is edited by the Assistant Director (Research) of the Australian Institute of Criminology, Mr David Biles who convened the seminar.

Copies are available from the Publications section of the Institute at \$2.75 each, plus postage.

PROFILE OF FEDERAL PRISONERS

Satyanshu K. Mukherjee



Australian Institute of Criminology

Until the establishment of the Australian Law Reform Commission, the subject of federal offences, offenders and prisoners received almost no attention. Actually, the Commission through meetings, seminars and publications, has increased the awareness on the subject.

For the last six years the Institute has been collecting information on federal offenders undergoing sentences of imprisonment in institutions in various Australian jurisdictions. The publication reflects an analysis of data collected up to the end of 1980.

The publication attempts to establish a profile of federal prisoners with the help of such variables as age, sex, nationality, marital status, occupation and offence. It also examines any disparities in sentencing across jurisdiction and across courts.

About two-thirds of the federal prisoners are convicted of offences such as fraud, forgery and uttering, and the average length of sentence in these cases has been six to eight months. The research reveals a disturbing phenomenon in that among the federal prisoners the proportion of those convicted of unlawful importation of narcotic drugs is increasing; these prisoners also receive much longer sentences.

Copies of Profile of Federal Prisoners can be purchased from the Publications section of the Institute at \$1.95 per copy, plus postage.

PHYSICAL PLANNING AND CRIME IN CANBERRA

John Walker

Australian Institute of Criminology

Is Canberra, as a planned city, any different from other cities in terms of crime or the perception of crimes? Do crime patterns vary from suburb to suburb in the planned city in the same way as they do in other cities?

Research conducted by John Walker, the Institute's computing specialist, suggests that the only major ways that Canberra differs from other cities are caused by its demography rather than its physical planning *per se*. The predominance, in the outer suburbs, of young families, mostly well educated and with above average incomes, leads to a comparatively low perception of crime but a relatively high incidence of juvenile-type offences such as vandalism. The residents of the older, inner suburbs, by contrast, suffer comparatively more break and enter offences and tend to take crime more seriously than those of the outer suburbs. The type of precaution taken against crime in the different areas also reflects age and income distributions. This pattern is little different from that in Melbourne which was the subject of analysis by Mr Walker in 1973.

The report *Physical Planning and Crime in Canberra* can be purchased from the Publications section of the Institute at a price of \$1.50 per copy, plus postage.

STATISTICS

Juveniles under detention

By Satyanshu Mukherjee
Senior Criminologist

Statistics on Persons in Juvenile Corrective Institutions for the quarter January to March 1981 are shown in Tables 1 to 3. It is a matter of great satisfaction to report that Northern Territory is back in the series and its contribution is welcomed.

Definitions of terms used in the tables can be found in the March 1981 issue of the *Reporter*.

Table 1 Persons Aged 10-17 in Juvenile Corrective Institutions by Sex, January to March 1981

		31 January		28 February		31 March	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
N.S.W.	n	536	104	608	108	606	130
	r	151.6	31.3	181.1	32.6	171.4	39.2
Vic.	n	237	86	262	92	267	81
	r	84.3	32.2	93.2	34.5	95.0	30.3
Qld.	n	108	17	103	17	123	22
	r	68.0	11.2	64.5	11.2	77.0	14.4
S.A.	n	84	11	74	7	74	7
	r	88.6	12.4	78.1	7.9	78.0	7.9
W.A.	n	139	19	141	19	159	17
	r	149.0	21.7	151.1	21.7	170.4	19.4
Tas.	n	23	3	18	5	19	4
	r	71.1	9.7	55.6	16.2	58.7	12.9
N.T.	n	5	1	3	—	1	—
	r	54.8	11.8	32.9	—	11.0	—
A.C.T.	n	14	6	16	10	19	12
	r	83.7	38.3	95.6	63.8	113.5	76.6
AUST.	n	1146	247	1225	258	1268	273
	r	110.1	25.1	117.7	26.3	121.8	27.8

Table 2 Persons Aged 10-17 in Juvenile Corrective Institutions by Detention Status, January to March 1981

	31 January		28 February		31 March	
	Not Awaiting	Awaiting	Not Awaiting	Awaiting	Not Awaiting	Awaiting
N.S.W.	467	173	519	197	538	198
Vic.	273	50	292	62	296	52
QLD.	88	37	89	31	96	49
S.A.	69	26	59	22	52	29
W.A.	125	33	138	22	145	31
Tas.	14	12	14	9	16	7
N.T.	3	3	3	—	1	—
A.C.T.	14	6	20	6	26	5
AUST.	1053	340	1134	349	1170	371

Table 3 Persons Aged 10-17 in Juvenile Corrective Institutions by Reason of Detention, January to March 1981

	31 January		28 February		31 March	
	Offender/Alleged Offender	Non Offender	Offender/Alleged Offender	Non Offender	Offender/Alleged Offender	Non Offender
N.S.W.	579	61	655	61	635	101
Vic.	164	159	201	153	199	149
QLD.	96	29	86	34	100	45
S.A.	93	2	74	7	69	12
W.A.	155	3	158	2	174	2
Tas.	24	2	21	2	20	3
N.T.	6	—	3	—	1	—
A.C.T.	12	8	16	10	18	13
AUST.	1129	264	1214	269	1216	325

Probation and parole

Compiled by Ivan Potas
Senior Research Officer

The following table provides the number and rates of adult persons on probation and parole as at the first day of December 1980.

Table 1

	General Pop. ¹ '000	Probation ²		Parole ³	
		Number	Rates ⁴	Number	Rates ⁴
N.S.W.	5,181	8,334 ⁵	160.9	2,298 ⁶	44.4
VIC.	3,905	2,920	74.8	781	20.0
QLD.	2,273	2,904	127.8	447	19.7
S.A.	1,302	2,419	185.8	183	14.1
W.A.	1,277	1,563	122.4	569	44.6
TAS.	426	1,646 ⁷	386.4	63	14.8
N.T.	124	230	185.5	80 ⁸	64.5
A.C.T.	228	159	69.7	52	22.8
AUST.	14,716	20,175	137.1	4,473	30.4

- 1 Estimated population as at 31 December 1980 (subject to revision).
- 2 Only those under actual supervision are included in these data.
- 3 As a general rule licensees — other than Governor's Pleasure licensees are counted as parolees if supervised.
- 4 Rates are calculated per 100,000 of the general population.
- 5 Includes 220 known youth and community service cases.
- 6 Includes 120 licencees.
- 7 Includes 208 prisoners released on probation, but excludes 127 juveniles.
- 8 Includes 2 special licencees and 5 Federal licencees.

Asian and Pacific series

Compiled by David Biles

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 January 1981

	Population			Rate ¹
	Males	Females	Total (in thousands)	
Australia ²	9,236	306	9,542	14,716
Canada ³	9,428	121	9,549	23,810
Fiji	1,209	31	1,240	619
Hong Kong	4,747	117	4,864	5,068
Indonesia	34,954	769	35,723	130,000
Japan	49,051	1,655	50,706	116,133
Malaysia	9,078	177	9,255	13,000
New Zealand	2,685	115	2,800	3,149
Philippines	14,511	194	14,705	50,000
Singapore	2,713	85	2,798	2,410
Sri Lanka	10,687	386	11,073	14,500
Thailand	72,668	3,619	76,287	46,000
Western Samoa	173	7	180	155

- 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 December 1980.
- 3 Federal prisoners only.

Australian prison trends

By Marjorie Johnson
on behalf of David Biles
Assistant Director (Research)

The number of prisoners in all States and Territories for April 1981 with changes since January 1981 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Daily Average Australian Prison Populations
April 1981 with Changes since January 1981

	Males	Females	Total	Changes since Jan. 1981
N.S.W.	3,272	130	3,402	+ 156
VIC.	1,791	56	1,847	+ 133
QLD.	1,703	38	1,741	+ 42
S.A.	823	29	853	+ 53
W.A.	1,405	69	1,474	+ 98
TAS.	256	3	259	+ 32
N.T.	291	12	303*	+ 12
A.C.T.	51	—	51**	+ 2
AUST.	9,592	337	9,929	+ 528

* 6 prisoners in this total were serving sentences in S.A. prisons.

** 42 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 April 1981. The national rate of 67.2 compares with 63.9 found in January 1981.

Table 2 Daily Average Prison Populations and
Imprisonment Rates by Jurisdiction — April 1981

	Prisoners	General Pop.* '000	Imprisonment Rates
N.S.W.	3,402	5,201	65.4
VIC.	1,847	3,914	47.2
QLD.	1,741	2,285	76.2
S.A.	852	1,304	65.3
W.A.	1,474	1,283	114.9
TAS.	259	427	60.7
N.T.	303	125	242.4
A.C.T.	51	230	22.2
AUST.	9,929	14,769	67.2

* Estimated Population as at 31 March 1981 (subject to revision.)

Table 3 Total Prisoners, Federal Prisoners and Remandees
as at 1 April 1981

	Total Prisoners	Federal Prisoners	Prisoners on Remand	Percentage of Remandees	Remandees per '000 of Gen. Pop.
N.S.W.	3,379	121	521	15.4	10.0
VIC.	1,831	40	144	7.9	3.7
QLD.	1,755	33	108	6.2	4.7
S.A.	857	14	128	14.9	9.8
W.A.	1,472	36	125	8.5	9.7
TAS.	256	2	8	3.1	1.9
N.T.	307	15	31	10.1	24.8
A.C.T.	51	3	9	17.6	3.9
AUST.	9,908	264	1,074	10.8	7.3

N.Z. penal review

Mr Mel Smith, of the New Zealand Department of Justice, visited the Australian Institute of Criminology in June to gather background for a comprehensive review of penal policy in New Zealand.

Mr Smith is a member of the New Zealand Penal Review Committee, together with New Zealand Supreme Court judge Mr Justice Mahon, and the New Zealand Secretary for Justice Mr John Robertson.

While here, Mr Smith held discussions with the Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology and officers of the Institute's Research and Training Divisions. He also made extensive use of the facilities offered by the J.V. Barry Memorial Library.

As a consequence of the short period of time the committee had been allowed by the Government, much of the work being done was by literature review and up-dating earlier research work.

Mr Smith said the review covered the full range of penal policy from an examination of existing non-gaol sanctions through to consideration of a policy for reparation and assistance to the victims of criminal offenders.

Mr Smith said that in spite of the wide range of alternative sentences available to the courts, the fact remained that New Zealand had a rate of imprisonment about 25 per cent higher than that of Australia. The ethnic distribution of the prison population would also be examined. The percentage of Maoris in the New Zealand prison population had risen steadily over recent years and now stood at 45 per cent as against the Maori proportion of the total population of 11 per cent.

The committee would also consider the desirability and practicability of making appropriate provision for offenders from different cultural groups.

Mr Smith said that the Planning and Policy Division of the Department of Justice also carried the responsibility for the coordination of policy development and evaluation over the range of departmental functions.

It was a diverse department, he said, with responsibility for a large legislative program (it administers some 160 Acts of Parliament) as well as 9 operational divisions.

As well as its policy-related functions, Mr Smith said the Division undertook research directed in the main to the field of criminal justice and penal policy.

Research studies are published in three series; the Research Series reporting work of a pure or theoretical nature, the Study Series reporting on research studies of a more applied nature examining operational aspects of various programs including effectiveness evaluations, and a Monograph Series providing information generally of a more descriptive nature, preliminary to consideration of policy changes or as a forerunner to a research project.

In the evaluation field he said, a recent innovation had been the establishment of an evaluation profile as part of the implementation analysis stage of any new program or activity. ®

Happenings

CRIMINOLOGY AT ANZAAS

The Criminology section of the 51st ANZAAS Conference in Brisbane was well attended during the week 11-15 May.

A provocative paper 'Natural Justice and the Hidden Courts' was presented by conference secretary Matt Foley of the University of Queensland, while Australian Law Reform Commissioner Bruce DeBelle told of the progress being made in the area of the status of customary Aboriginal law.

Australian Institute of Criminology researchers Dr S.K. Mukherjee, John Walker and John Braithwaite presented papers on 'Women's Liberation and Criminal Involvement: A Comparative Study of Australia, the U.K. and the U.S.A.'; 'Demography and Delinquency: An Exercise in Forecasting Crime' and 'Do Slums Really Cause Crime?' respectively.

Other papers covered a range of esoteric subjects ranging from paedophilia to 'Forensic Aspects of Personality Dissociation'.

Some of these papers may appear in a forthcoming special edition of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology* on women and crime.

POLICE STRESS – MORE BALANCE, LESS BIAS

On 6 May this year, Mr Bruce Swanton, a Senior Research Officer with the Australian Institute of Criminology, visited Tasmania to lecture police about health.

Mr Swanton spoke to students at Rokeby on a range of health topics from both a general and a police-specific point of view.

Mr Swanton, who said the relationship between police work and police health was complex and interesting, covered topics including relaxation, nutrition, home/family life, stress, medical checks and fitness and obesity.

Police health he said, had developed in recent years as a major area of research and study.

But, he said, unfortunately exaggerated reports in the media of excessive stress experienced by police officers had tended to create a rather distorted image in the public mind of the impact of police work on policemen and policewomen.

These reports, he said, also created a situation in which there was a real danger of police officers generally seeing themselves as being vastly more disadvantaged than they in fact were. Therefore, Mr Swanton said, there was a need for those possessing expertise and special knowledge in the field, to present to police a more balanced, and less biased view, of their health.

Lectures to police courses he said, presented an ideal opportunity to put the message across.

ISSUES IN CORRECTIONS

From 28 April to 1 May the New Zealand Government acted as host to a Conference of Ministers in Charge of Prisons, Probation and Parole and the preparatory meetings of officers to prepare for the Conference.

The Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology, Mr William Clifford and Mr Colin Bevan, the Assistant Director (Training), attended this conference to deal with those matters on the agenda which affected the Institute.

This was a unique opportunity for trans-Tasman cooperation, because it so happens that the New Zealand Government is conducting a review of its penal policy and the meeting gave the opportunity for discussions to be held between the Director and the academic and public service authorities in New Zealand.

Arrangements were made for some on-going research to be carried out in cooperation with local State Correctional Services, including a review of the costs and benefits involved in the various schemes for alternatives to imprisonment. There was agreement

to improve procedures for the collection of data on imprisonment and the meeting proposed to advise the Federal Attorney-General of an interest in the possibility of Australia being the host country for a Commonwealth Meeting of Correctional Administrators.

The meeting also approved continued liaison between the Correctional Administrators in Australia and New Zealand with the Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology on the preparation of a paper to cover rights and obligations within a prison setting.

The agenda was obviously much wider than this and covered a large number of issues of concern to Ministers and Administrators in Australia and New Zealand. This is just a brief reference to those items which were of concern to the Institute.

RESEARCHER ON FULBRIGHT

Mr David Biles, Assistant Director (Research), is currently in the United States for a four-month period, having been the recipient of a Fulbright Senior Scholarship. He left Australia on 3 May 1981 and is currently attached to the Program of Social Ecology at the University of California at Irvine.

While in California, Mr Biles is undertaking a detailed review of current criminological research in the United States with a view to preparing a report on his return which may be of assistance to Australian researchers.

During his stay in the United States, Mr Biles will visit research centres in Chicago, Wisconsin, Columbus, Washington D.C., New York City, Albany, Boston and Toronto.

While in America, Mr Biles will give some lectures on Australian criminology but his primary task is to compare notes with his American counterparts. On his return a more detailed report will be included in an issue of the *Reporter*.

BOOK REVIEWS

FIREARMS AND VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIAN LIFE

By Richard Harding

University of Western Australia Press

191pp. — \$13.95 (paperback)

Reviewer: BRUCE SWANTON, Senior Research Officer, Australian Institute of Criminology.

The attempted assassination of President Reagan brought into sharp relief public policy arguments concerning firearms control. The fact that Richard Harding's *Firearms and Violence in Australian Life* was published shortly prior to that event, was not only economically fortuitous for UWA Press but timely. For, despite its presentation as a product of legal and social research the book is essentially a policy document. The author's limited and rather generally phrased recommendations suggest the present safety and public order situation in Australia with respect to firearms is by his own accounting 'well short of crisis'. To state the point rather less elliptically, it would seem fair to conclude that firearms do not significantly affect public safety in Australia. Of course, for special groups, such as police, who have to deal with offences involving firearms on a continuing basis, any misuse of firearms at all is significant. Professor Harding may be correct in his conclusion that violence by firearms will become an unmanageable problem by the end of this century (unless something is done to reduce the problem) but his evidence on this point is far from compelling.

Although *Firearms and Violence in Australian Life* is disappointing with respect to its contribution to firearms policy formation, it does serve a useful purpose in presenting an array of interesting data concerning safety, ownership characteristics, registrations etc., as well as describing the States' relevant administrative structures and legal provisions. Such information is not only convenient to have to

hand but is of utility to a variety of interest groups affected by firearms, ranging from police to publishers. This limited utility, though, is achieved at the expense of the reader being told what he or she already knew without having to read the book, for example, that firearms registration and licence provisions in most States are unsatisfactory, that police firearms training is universally inadequate, that the ignorance of most shooters and/or gun owners is appalling and that firearms ownership should be strictly controlled.

Firearms and Violence in Australian Life is essentially the write up of surveys covering gun ownership plus discussions of associated considerations. The conclusions derived from this write up amount to a less than adequate answer to the general problem addressed both explicitly and implicitly. The author candidly admits to be unequipped to delve into behavioural approaches and explanations of firearm use and possession. But even within his own terms of reference he could have interviewed criminals convicted of offences involving firearms especially with a view to gaining some insights into the relationship between drugs and illegal firearms use. He could, without getting his hands dirty, have taken up policy implications with senior administrators and politicians who would be responsible for administering suggested reforms. He could have delved far more deeply into questions covering firearms, trafficking, and police enforcement priorities with respect to firearms. A major problem in all areas of firearms administration is the inability of governments to cope with incipient problems, given that firearms do not currently constitute a serious political problem in this country. Cries for reform are wasted unless some advice is forthcoming as to how Government agencies and politicians can be stimulated to act in advance.

It is for an author to decide what he wishes to study and write about and his choice of subject is not objectively open to criticism. The appropriateness of his perspective and methodology to the task decided upon, however, are properly open to criticism. In this case they are found to be insufficient. The author frankly states in his foreword that a behavioural approach is eschewed, feeling himself best suited to a legalistic public policy oriented approach. But, interviews with convicted criminals, etc., can be quite legalistic in orientation.

In sum, although *Firearms and Violence in Australian Life* is lucidly written and presents some interesting and useful data, it lacks anywhere near a sufficiently comprehensive and inquiring approach to satisfactorily deal, even in purely policy oriented terms, with the subject addressed.

BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT

By David A. Yallop

Penguin Books. 372 pp.

Reviewer: JOHN F. WALSH OF BRANNAGH, Justice of the Peace for Victoria.

In December 1979 Arthur Allan Thomas was granted a royal pardon and awarded \$950,000 compensation; after two trials and two convictions Arthur Thomas was told that he was innocent.

Arthur Thomas was convicted of the 1970 double murder of Harvey and Jeannette Crewe, near neighbours of his in the New Zealand farming district of Pukekawa, and sentenced to life imprisonment. Part of the reason he is free today is on account of this book by David Yallop.

Public disquiet over the first Thomas trial in 1971 led to another trial in 1973, and concern over this second trial led to the extraordinary events that followed.

One does not have to read far before one can understand the uneasiness caused by the first trial. Yallop states, 'Thus the trial of

Arthur Thomas began, with a jury in quarantine, a judge with a reputation for harshness, and a Crown prosecution that suppressed evidence that would have been favourable to the accused' (page 114); this after the 'police investigation (which) was the most costly police enquiry in New Zealand's history (and) also one of the most crass, banal, amateur investigations ever undertaken in the country's history' (page 122).

It is the author's contention that the police bungled the initial investigation and then built up a case against Thomas in order to secure a conviction, even to the extent of planting evidence and suppressing witnesses.

No wonder one local resident is quoted as saying, 'I sat there during the trial and listened and watched, and as I did, one by one, (my) beliefs (in the 'integrity of the law, the honesty of the police') were stripped away from me' (page 191).

Public pressure led to a second trial, although this was seen politically and judicially as 'dangerous precedent' (page 217). The author writes of the 'desperate position of both police and Crown prosecution' with the 'desire for conviction (being) deep and personal' and of the 'anger (that) would ensure the most appalling travesty of justice ever seen' (pages 216, 217).

What is chilling to read is that 'neither jury heard all the evidence available', that there was telephone tapping by the police of defence counsel (page 249), and that evidence was planted (the incriminating cartridge case - 'the most discredited court exhibit in the history of New Zealand' (page 148)) and then dumped after the trial to prevent further examination (page 280). Even the method of operation of the police nerve centre outside the Supreme Court (page 222) would give rise for concern.

After all that it is not surprising to read that Thomas was convicted again and that then the Court of

Appeal gave the benefit of the doubt in the case to the Crown and upheld the conviction (page 289).

The author has done a remarkable and painstaking job in writing and research (and, no doubt, has had many people asking how dry soil can be found inside a buried cartridge case after 4 months 10 days in the ground (page 142)). It does seem odd that what is revealed in this book was not known to the police, prosecution and courts at the time.

Yallop speaks of the 'highly dangerous ruling' (page 196) on the circumstantial evidence in the case - a view which will be of interest to many in this country.

The book is well-written and soundly documented, but it is certainly not light reading. Concentration is needed if one is not to lose the essential threads of the tragic story of what happened to Arthur Thomas.

The book is recommended for lawyers and criminologists and for those in related disciplines, and for the ordinary man who does not want to take the criminal justice system for granted.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SURVIVAL: THE EXPERIENCE OF LONG- TERM IMPRISONMENT

By Stanley Cohen and Laurie Taylor. With a postscript by John McVicar

Second Edition. Penguin.

239 pp. - \$6.95

Reviewer: GRANT WARDLAW,
Criminologist, Australian Institute
of Criminology.

In the years since the publication of the first edition of this book in 1972, the research carried out by Cohen and Taylor at Durham Prison has been widely quoted as evidence of the ill effects of long-term imprisonment. The attempts by the British Home Office to frustrate the efforts of these researchers in continuing their study, together with the skilful publicity engineered by Cohen

and Taylor in support of their approach to prison research, have ensured that this work has already become a 'classic'.

In essence, Cohen and Taylor chose to analyse the effects of long-term imprisonment by using as primary evidence the first-hand descriptions of prisoners undergoing such sentences. This stands in contrast to the more traditional studies of these effects, which emphasise the results of formal psychological tests, usually as evidence of a lack of deterioration in the mental state of long-term prisoners.

In this second edition the bulk of the chapters are substantially unchanged. The authors have, however, included a new introduction which points out how long-term prisoners are occupying an increasingly important place in the British prison system (as, indeed, they are also doing in Australia) and make some useful comments about recent development in security systems designed to contain them.

A new chapter on research into long-term prisoners (incorporating much material contained in an appendix to the original edition) describes the 'political' problems associated with Cohen and Taylor's work and relates their research to the results of studies conducted since the book was written. A postscript by one of the inmates described in the research (since released) adds an interesting new dimension to the work in which it is pointed out that Cohen and Taylor failed to address adequately the problem of power relationships within high security, long-term environments.

In all, the additions make an already worthwhile study more convincing. For those who have read the original work, the changes are not sufficient reason to buy the new edition. However, they do add something useful for new readers. This continues to be a book which should be read by all those interested in the problem of long-term imprisonment.

PUBLICATIONS

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