

brotherhood of outlaws

The Journal of the Brotherhood of St Laurence

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SEPTEMBER, 1972

It could happen to YOU

The following extract is taken from a letter sent to me by two young teenagers:

'You certainly got "through" to both of us. You talk the kind of talk we understand. We only wish now, that our parents had been present to see and listen to you. But instead they were home "hypnotised" in front of the "mad box" (telly). We can't get through to our parents no matter how hard we try. There always seems to be that "wall" that prevents and blocks the flow of understandable communication between us.'

'But we are positive that if our parents were present at your talk you would have got through to them too. We only wish there were more people around who could understand our problems.'

I quote this to highlight one of the major causes of the drug problem — lack of communication.

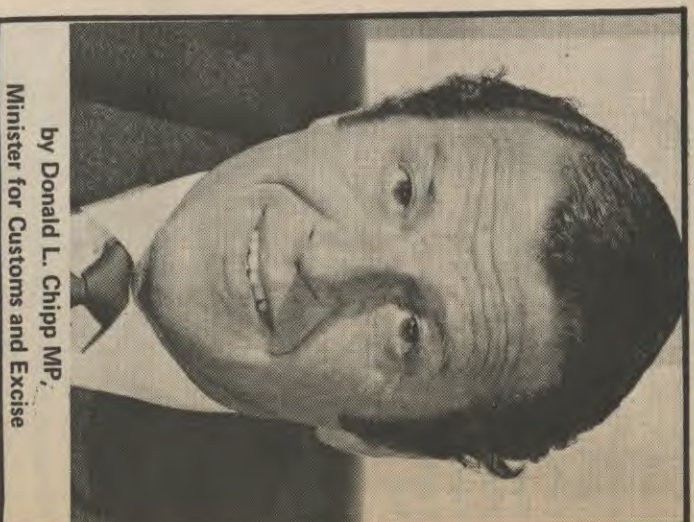
Before I talk about drug abuse among the young, I would like to say this. One of the things the young condemn adults for is the double standards of our generation — our hypocrisy over many important social issues.

To get the drug problem into perspective let me first state that the biggest killer drugs of addiction known to Western man today are consumed by my generation. These drugs are alcohol and tobacco. Alcohol is now the third largest killer of mankind. Rated fourth by the World Health Organisation as the main health problem. Statistics indicate that there are 250,000 alcoholics in Australia today — 58,000 in Victoria alone.

Then let us look at tobacco — 3,600 Australians died of lung cancer last year — 97 per cent were heavy cigarette smokers. And the next greatest drug abuse problem, according to statistics is that of barbiturates, analgesics, and bromiurides abuse. These are drugs of addiction and they are taken mainly by middle aged women, to cope with the problems of the day. Therefore, if we find the youth of today are opting for a false distorted, hallucinogenic world, let us show compassion — remembering that we, too, sometimes do the same thing.

American picture

Let me briefly discuss the scene in other countries from which I have just returned. In the USA it is estimated there are about six hundred thousand hard drug addicts — most if not all of them under 25 years. These young people are shooting up something like between five and 25 bags of heroin every day of their lives, just to sustain existence, six hundred thousand of them. In New York more young people under 35 years of age will die today from a heroin overdose than from a combination of all other causes, including those killed on the



by Donald L. Chipp MP,
Minister for Customs and Excise

road, who die of disease, who die of accidents, Vietnam. Add them all up and the total does not equal the number who die needlessly through self-administered overdoses of heroin. In the city of New York alone there are 1,000 deaths per year from overdoses. In the same area 1,000 deaths from murders, 80 per cent of which are caused by drug addicts or robbing or mugging. One in every 29 people born in that area are hopeless heroin addicts. More than 60 per cent of crime — suburban crime — in the USA today is caused by drug addicts and the problem is increasing every day.

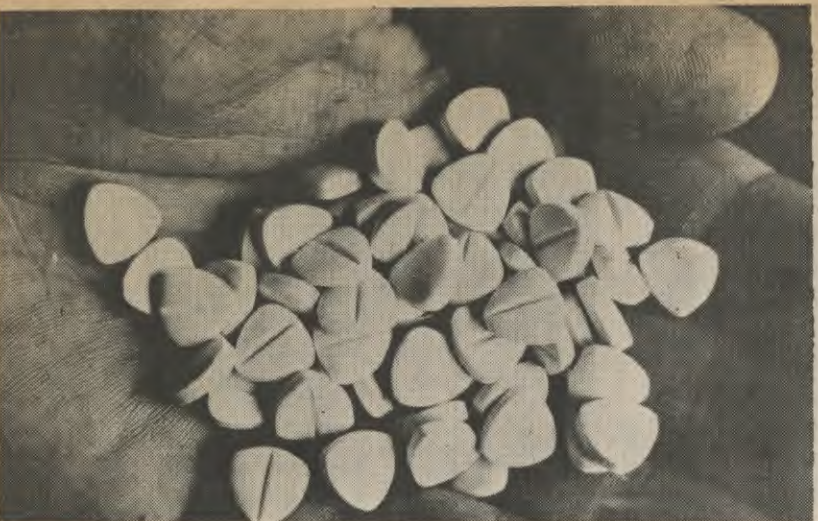
There is not enough space here to describe the kind of scenes we witnessed while on a tour of the city with the New York State Police Drug Squad. But I saw things there that I had not believed possible in human existence.

If you suggest that I am wrong in comparing the U.S. with Australia, and say they have problems we haven't got, I do not agree.

Drugs go middle class

Drug abuse has moved out of the ghetto into the middle class area, where kids are coming

Continued on page 10



brotherhood action

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FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Editorial

by
David
Scott



A discriminating voter should be cautious of parties that merely list a series of promises about pension increases or improvements to existing services.

The first requirement of any political party should be to devise a social policy which is based on a view of Australian society and the kind of life Australians should be able to enjoy. This then commits a party to programs and policies that will provide opportunities for all to develop personalities and capacities to the fullest extent that they wish.

In practice this means that everyone should have an equal right to good quality education, health services, housing and social welfare without regard to their ability to pay. I do not suggest that no-one should pay. People pay through taxes and directly. But I do suggest that no adult or child should be denied these opportunities simply because they receive low wages, have to live on pensions or because at a particular time society cannot provide the income earner with a job.

These objectives cannot, of course, be realised instantly, but they should be set as goals to work for. With the objectives set, these are some of the immediate Social Welfare programs that voters should demand.

FAMILY WELFARE AND CHILD CARE

Child endowment, day care, housing, foster care, adoption, family counselling and pensions, all need to be co-ordinated and goals established.

* Needs in specific areas include —
* Working mothers. Find out why mothers work and the effect on mothers and children.
Particularly low income families, widows

and single mothers who work for economic reasons and not for fulfilment. On the basis of this knowledge it would then be possible to determine policies of family allowances or subsidisation of day care.
* Child endowment is an essential supplement for low income wages. It should be doubled or trebled and made taxable so that maximum benefit goes to those most in need.

SERVICES FOR THE AGED

- * Raise the pension to 25% of average weekly earnings and adjust it on this basis.
- * Develop a comprehensive system of home care services for elderly people. This would include nursing, meals and therapy and would be associated with the development of health centres and an overall hospital and health program, which would help combat the increasing institutionalisation of programs for the aged.
- * Critically review the Aged Persons Homes Act. Use the funds in a more imaginative, planned and co-ordinated way to fill gaps in certain categories of housing need and reduce institutionalisation.
- * Prepare a plan for contributory national superannuation phased in over five years.

HOUSING

Public housing policy has been neglected probably because it has few votes to it.

The alarming decline in construction of public housing must be arrested by a supply of more money and by Commonwealth and States setting new goals for public housing.

POVERTY

Some of the above proposals would help people in poverty. Other measures are more family planning clinics, special anti-poverty programs in certain areas, encouragement of credit unions and credit counselling and funds for improving the facilities, staffing and amenities of poorer schools.

An inquiry into national goals for social and economic policy and into present services and their administration, as recommended by the Australian Council of Social Service, should be high on the policy statement of any party. A continuing program of research and evaluation and an emphasis on customer and citizen participation is also required.

The specific policy objectives are best left to aborigine people and the agencies who work with them, but clearly the rights and needs of aborigines need voter's support.

Migrant welfare is another specialised area best left to ethnic groups and agencies but aspiring members of Parliament should be reminded of the shame of Professor Henderson's poverty survey which showed that one-third of migrants lived in poverty, and be asked for clear statements about migration health and welfare policies.

BLAMING THE VICTIM

By Concetta Benn

Ocka Smith and his family are poor. They've always been poor and unless something changes drastically, it looks as if they'll stay that way. Ocka is an unskilled labourer and earns a dollar more than the minimum wage (\$52.00). The four kids are all small and his wife stays home and cares for them.

Mind you, the Government helps them with \$5.75 per week Child Endowment. That isn't enough to pay for one pair of poor quality shoes which will wear out in a month anyway. So the Child Endowment doesn't even keep the kids in shoes. When the wife was sick after having one of the kids they got into arrears with the rent and were evicted from their Housing Commission home. Now they live in a private house at a rent of \$23 per week. With \$29 per week for food, clothing, transport, chemist bills and the television, they hardly ever manage without begging or borrowing.

Every month as unemployment increases, Ocka gets more and more worried; if he loses his job the family is finished. He becomes irritable and hard to live with; he feels guilty every time he looks at his family; he goes to the pub too often. Ocka and his wife will stay in this position until his wife is forced to go to work and leave the children or 'the kids are off their hands'.

These are the families that most of society looks at and blames for their poverty stricken state. I am tired of being asked by audiences of well-meaning Christian people the following question: 'Don't you think it's his own fault that he hasn't got on in the world?' My answer for the public record is: 'No, I don't think it's his fault. I think it is my fault and your fault for allowing society to treat families in this way.'

There is no way in which Ocka could have helped himself. He left school at 14 years to help his Mum who was a widow. He married at 19



years because his girl got pregnant (they couldn't afford contraception or an abortion even if they knew about them). Since they got married Ocka has been in full employment but they always wear second-hand clothes and they're always in debt. For that matter the

only new piece of furniture they've ever had is the television set, and they're paying through the nose for that on Hire Purchase. For many years the Brotherhood tried to help Ocka and his family by giving them second-hand furniture and clothing, by sending the kids for holidays, by occasionally supplementing their weekly income. Ocka's wife is well-known to us. Ocka we never see: he's too ashamed to come begging for charity. Although the help was well-motivated and given without prejudice we have been missing the real point.

Ocka's trouble is he needs more money. He also needs a lot of other things including cheaper housing, better education for his kids and health services which reach his family.

The Brotherhood's new program for families, which is due to commence later in the year, will be based on helping Ocka and his family achieve these things for themselves. If the Government won't help Ocka become more skilled so he can get a better job, then perhaps we can provide retraining. If local schools and health services are bad then Ocka and his wife can learn from us how to democratically demand better education and health facilities. If the Minister of Social Welfare keeps on blaming Ocka because his kids are delinquent we can help Ocka collect the information which will show the Minister that it is not Ocka's fault but the result of poor provisions for youth and society's materialistic attitude.



The possibilities are limitless. But first of all Ocka, using us as his resources, must identify his own needs. We intend to provide the opportunities for him and his family to do so. Despite all our years of work with poor families I don't think we always know what is important to them. They must tell us. However, I suspect they want what we all want — peace, security and equality.

So it's time we stopped blaming Ocka for being poor and started blaming the system!

'Blaming the Victim' is the name of an excellent book on the same subject by William Ryan, published by Random House, New York, 1970.



What's happening in welfare

● A new Action group was formed in July by a group of pensioners, social service beneficiaries and those involved in the welfare industry, who believe dependence on Federal and State Governments should not mean a life sentence of poverty. Called Action for Income the group recognises that people are in dependent situations but believes that the one common factor, resulting in problems of hardship and suffering, is inadequate income.

Unlike other pension reform movements this group is founded on the basic beliefs that all citizens of Australia are of equal worth and dignity and that any real change in the relationship between social services consumers and those providing services can only occur if they are regarded as having equal rights.

Membership is open to all consumers of and employees in the welfare industry. For further information telephone 94 1435 (mornings), and 41 4078 (evenings). Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at 115 Melrose Street, North Melbourne, at 7.30 p.m. Transport and child minding facilities are provided.

● Following the announcement in July that the Federal Government would not hold an inquiry into poverty, representatives of 42 organisations and groups joined in sending the following telegram to the Prime Minister:

DISTURBED AT GOVERNMENT DECISION NOT TO HOLD INQUIRY INTO POVERTY. STRONGLY URGE RECONSIDERATION. PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO NATIONAL GOALS FOR SOCIAL WELFARE, INCLUDING EXAMINATION OF NATURE, EXTENT, CAUSES, RELIEF AND PREVENTION OF POVERTY, IS A MATTER OF HIGHEST NATIONAL PRIORITY.

Signatories came from across the board and included Church and Union leaders, country Shires and professional and welfare organisations.

● At their Annual General Meeting in August last year, the Victorian Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children decided to change its name to Children's Protection Society. It was felt that people reacted negatively to the old name and that it did not give an indication of what the Society does. The new name has been used since December and staff have found that there is a positive reaction from the people they visit. Mrs Margot Lustig has recently joined the staff of the society to work with migrant families. This is an important development because they are reaching migrant families where children are at risk and are either referring them to appropriate ethnic agencies or continuing to assist the families themselves.

● In May, 1972, the Citizens Welfare Service introduced a system of charging for its services. Fees are assessed according to income and family size and on a sliding scale. Those on pensions and low incomes will not be asked to contribute, neither will those clients considered by their social workers as unable to do

What we've been doing

In May . . .

A report on the first six months of the Brotherhood's Family Day care project was published. While no conclusions can be drawn from this report it outlines many of the problems to be overcome in a program of this kind and the issues involved in using selected housewives in their own homes to care for children under supervision. Copies available from 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. 35 cents.

In June . . .

Albert van Moorst, the Brotherhood's youth worker at Broadmeadows established the first family grouping in the area. This is the beginning of an experiment in involving parents directly in their families' leisure activities. The grouping consists of seven families comprising 15 young people who form a loosely knit community sharing leisure and spare time activities. It is proving a learning experience for both the parents and young people involved and even older brothers and sisters have joined in.

In July . . .

A new service was introduced by the Brotherhood's Coolibah Centre when John and Jenny Nobbs started delivering hot soup to lonely pensioners in the evenings. Every week day John and Jenny, who live in Bayswater, call

so. They stress that it is their intention to continue their open eligibility policy and that no-one will be precluded from receiving services through inability to pay.

● The Victorian Council of Social Service has recently published the proceedings of a seminar held to discuss Hostels for Handicapped persons. Speakers included Dr G. Keys Smith, Director, Handicapped Children's Centre, Royal Childrens Hospital; Miss Joan Tuxen, Director Victorian Society for Crippled Children and Adults; Mr D. Crawford, Superintendent, Minda Homes, Adelaide. Price \$1.50.

● A forthcoming Victorian Council of Social Service publication is a study entitled 'Homeless in the Seventies.' The first in-depth study of a problem which has remained submerged in this country where 73% of the population are purchasing their own homes. Price: \$1.50.

at the Centre to pick up the soup, and sometimes a pudding, and do a delivery round to 20 elderly people (mainly men) living alone. We are now looking for volunteers to continue the service over the weekend . . .

The painters moved into Hume Court, the Brotherhood's new personal care hostel for the frail elderly at St Laurence Park, Lara. Landscaping, and bridge works over the creek between the Hostel and the Park, have also commenced. Many inquiries have already been received for accommodation of this type at the Park and it is hoped that the 56-bed hostel will be ready for the first residents to move in by the end of October . . .

The Brotherhood appointed David Griffiths, a young freelance journalist to examine some of the problems associated with the current unemployment position and to make recommendations aimed at alleviating hardship for those involved. David is an arts graduate and has been appointed to the staff for two months.

In August . . .

The Brotherhood's Home Collection Service came into being with the commencement of a pilot project in the Bentleigh area. This will be the first house-to-house collection service in Victoria collecting clothing, household goods, cans, bottles, paper, scrap metal, books and other usable items. The pilot project will cover an area of approximately 9000 homes and it is hoped to eventually establish a service which will be an easy and dependable method of recycling thousands of tons of containers and goods which are now dumped as waste. At the same time it will provide finance for Brotherhood welfare services . . .

A group of 15 young people from Broadmeadows took part in a seven-day mobile adventure camp centred on the Lower Tarwin inlet. Canoeing and an overnight hike to the Promontory were the highlights of the camp.

RE-CYCLING IS BIG BUSINESS

By Stan Smith

The Brotherhood of St Laurence Salvage Depot is a combination of warehouse, clothing factory and workshop. A fork lift buzzes around stacking brimming tea chests to the roof. Volunteer workers unpack and sort clothes and others darn and sew, as a steady stream of clothes, ornaments, household utensils, furniture, stamps and books pour into the depot. In the words of its manager, Mr Les Carey, the division is 'an important contribution' to the Brotherhood's social service program.

With a yearly turnover of \$½ million it contributes an average profit of nearly \$40,000 each year to help finance social services for low income families and the elderly and accommodation for over 500 aged.

The division's five collection trucks cover the whole of the metropolitan area in response to phone calls to collect. Each truck makes over 200 calls a week.

'We will take anything that can be re-used or sent for scrap,' said Mr Carey.

And scrap is no mean item either. The Brotherhood gets more than \$50 a month from scrap metal, mainly unusable household utensils.

One of the by-products of Australia's affluent society is the large amount of goods and products that quickly become redundant. But it's an ill wind that blows no good. Many of the things discarded by people have proved to be a boon to the Brotherhood.

This important segment of the Brotherhood's activities has, since its start in 1957, grown to be an operation that many a private businessman might well envy.

Clothes comprise the bulk of the five to six tons of salvage that Mr Carey estimates is sorted every day. 'Some of the clothes finish up in the rag bales. The balance then go to the cleaners before they are distributed to the Brotherhood's eight opportunity shops.'

A man's suit will sell for about \$6.

But clothes, to the value of \$100 a week, also go to low income families as does about the same value of furniture.

'In the case of furniture we make a small



VFL Hawthorn team star, Peter Hudson, on a visit to the BSL Salvage Division where cans collected at football matches are sorted for re-cycling.

charge for goods distributed through our family services. In this way they feel involved — an important factor in social service,' said Mr Carey.

One hundred bales of rags, about 15 tons, leaves the depot each week for rag merchants in Melbourne and Sydney.

Collectors pieces

A small but steady income earner to the Brotherhood is the sale of stamps. Business firms and offices are a regular supply of used stamps. Volunteer workers then take envelopes to hospitals. Taking the stamps off the envelopes is an interest for patients and, in some cases, a form of therapy.

When the stamps come back to the depot a volunteer worker, Mr Sterling Parker, takes the stamps to the city for auction. An average

of \$20 a week results.

Ornaments, household utensils and room decorations of various kinds all find their way to Westgarth Street. Sometimes an antique turns up or old machines and fittings that in these days of pop art, can soon become collectors' pieces.

Books come to the depot by the thousand — books, magazines, paperbacks and newspapers. Crockery too, by the ton. Kitchen and dining-room ware and sometimes a rare piece of porcelain from another age. '50 baskets of books and crockery go out to the shops each week,' said Mr Carey.

Mr Carey pointed out that 100 different volunteers came to help in the depot each week in addition to the 50 part and full-time workers. 'Without volunteer workers we wouldn't make a profit,' he said.

House-to-house in Bentleigh

The Salvage Division has spawned an exciting new concept in salvage collection with the Bentleigh Home Collection Service. The manager of the project, Mr Graham Walker, said that for the first time in Victoria, clothing, household goods, cans, paper and bottles are being collected on a house-to-house basis.

'We have started off with a zone of 9000 homes all within the City of Moorbabin and 400 homes are visited each day. If the scheme is a success, then we'll extend the zone,' said Mr Walker.

The Bentleigh area was chosen because it represented a good cross-section of the community and a good income area. 'An added advantage is that the "collection" will support the Brotherhood Bazaar which opened at 520 Centre Road, Bentleigh, at the end of

May,' Mr Walker said. 'Local people have shown a keen interest in the Bazaar and more than 80 voluntary helpers have been recruited already. A good supply of volunteers is one of the problems of the Fitzroy Centre'.

The Bazaar has a much bigger range of goods than is normally available in a Brotherhood shop and features paintings by local artists and pottery which are sold on a commission basis.

An important aspect of the Home Collection Service is the protection of the environment through the collection of goods that can be recycled. Arrangements have been made with manufacturers to take back empty steel and aluminium cans and there is no problem about recycling the clothing and household goods. Waste paper and empty bottles are also being collected for recycling.



Collectors' piece?

TWO NOSTALGIC MILEPOSTS



Miss Jess Sumner talking to Mr. Reg Lawton, another familiar face at Coolibah Club

The problems are the same

'The war had only been over three years. Soldiers had returned and wanted homes for their families. People were being evicted right, left and centre and a movement was beginning for some change in the laws covering evictions.'

'It was one of the most vital times in BSL history.'

Miss Jessica Sumner who retired as Welfare Officer for the Aged last month was speaking of her first years with the Brotherhood in Fitzroy.

It all started in 1948 when a friend she had not seen for years came hurtling out of the Brotherhood front door in Brunswick Street and almost knocked her down. He apologised over a cup of tea and at the same time suggested she should join the staff of four.

'I agreed to help out for a week and at the end of that time the Board asked me to take over the management of the Coolibah Club for pensioners and here I am,' she said.

On a salary of \$6 a week with keep, Miss Sumner moved into a room above the club and threw herself into the mammoth task of cleaning it up.

'There were 20 members at that time and an old dentist's chair had pride of place in their sitting room. A few wooden benches and chairs and a big kitchen table covered with a

faded cretonne curtain completed the furnishings.'

'There was no money but gradually over a period of two years I got the place refurnished and painted out'. Amongst Miss Sumner's responsibilities was the donkey stove in the back yard which supplied the hot water. This had to be stoked regularly with coke, two tons of which was delivered at intervals. 'As there was no access to the back yard for the delivery truck this was just tipped through the little gate in the corner and I had to shovel the stuff'.

In 1954 Miss Sumner persuaded Father Tucker to give her the use of the board room so that she could take in women members and she recalls that at the peak of its activity the club had 246 members.

'The club was somewhere for them to spend the day and they could tuck into a good hot meal for a shilling', she says. By 1962 the job had become too big for one person and 'to give herself more time to devote to the individual members and other elderly people from all over Melbourne who turned to her with their problems, she handed over the management of the Club to Mrs Jessica Millott who had been helping her in a voluntary capacity for some years.

Miss Sumner points out that the problems of the pensioners in those early days were just the

same as they are now.

'That's the frightening part, nothing has really changed except that there was more local involvement; even though people had their own problems, they were prepared to help others'.

Miss Sumner considers that perhaps the only way to bring the enormity of the problem home to the Government would be a complete boycott by all voluntary organisations. 'Just imagine the chaos', she says

'I have come to the reluctant conclusion that we are never going to achieve anything by just presenting the Government with information and facts. They know we will keep on going.'

With a vital interest in people Miss Sumner feels that every person has a right to a living wage and everyone who has paid income tax has a right to some return. The basic pension, she says, should be raised to a point where there is an improved quality of life.

There should be no ban on earnings. 'To take away a person's right to earn what they are capable of earning seems to me to be a most cruel thing'.

She also feels quite strongly that people should not be forced to retire at a certain age. People should not be discarded, she maintains. This is human pollution and an insult to human dignity.

FOR THE BROTHERHOOD

24 years later

Soon a new building will replace the old hostel and headquarters of the tiny but vital organisation which was the Brotherhood of St Laurence in the 1930s.

David Scott, nephew of the founder Father Gerard Kennedy Tucker, and now Executive Director of the Brotherhood, recalls that he first visited 65 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, as a thirteen-year-old toward the end of the 1930s.

'It was then a hostel for unemployed men and rows of bunks and camp stretchers lined the upstairs rooms,' he said. 'On the ground floor there was a place to eat, hardly worthy of the name of dining room, and at the rear a kitchen living room used by the staff members most of whom were training for the ministry.'

'Father Tucker lived in a tiny brick cottage in the back yard. One room, his bedroom was without windows. Typically he had cleaned up the rubbish and the remnants of an old wood yard and designed and planted an attractive garden including the poplars and gum trees that now soar above the surrounding buildings'.

After the war, the ground floor of 65 became the Coolibah Club. This was opened in 1946 by the Minister of Health and was the first elderly citizen's club in Victoria and possibly Australia.

Soon after, David Scott explained, Jessica Summer moved into a room on the first floor and became Manageress of the Club. In another part of the first floor where the unemployed once slept, Mernda Knox, an artistic person with a great love for children set up a Children's Centre to introduce children from drab, overcrowded homes and rooms to

color, beauty and creativity.

A few years later, further along the first floor, a well equipped Children's Health Centre was established. Here two trained nurses provided baths, showers, de-lousing, minor treatments, tuberculosis tests and a medical referral service for children. This service continued until the Government School Medical Service expanded its program and housing conditions improved in the area.

Meanwhile the Children's Centre started by Mernda Knox, evolved into the Children's Creative Leisure Centre and moved to the rear of the building when the Youth Centre took over all the first floor of the building.

In 1958 a building was erected on the adjoining block, 67 Brunswick Street, to house the Social Service Bureau and administrative office, with the second floor providing extra space for a very active youth centre.

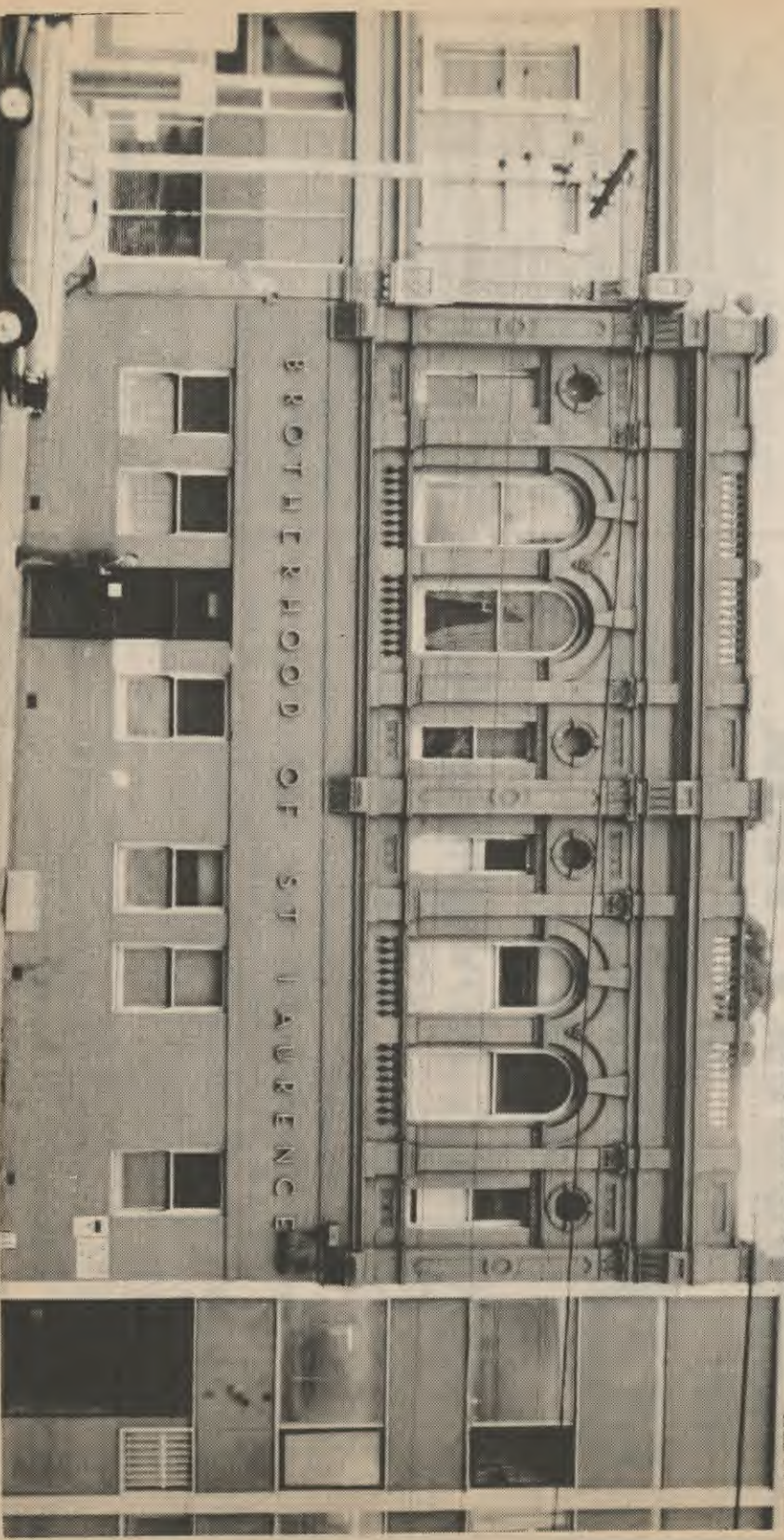
Last year it was decided that the time had come to rebuild 65, and the first step was an extension of the Coolibah Club which will cater for the members while building is going on. Demolition of the original building has now been completed and rebuilding has commenced. On the ground floor of the new building will be a Coolibah Centre sitting room, office and a first aid room. The first floor will accommodate office staff now working in very overcrowded conditions and the second floor will be occupied by the research staff, currently operating from a hut in the back yard, and people engaged in social action.

The new building is being financed from legacies

and funds given over the years for capital works. It will enable the Brotherhood to be more effective in contributing to community debate and decision-making in the areas of social welfare and poverty, it will provide an effective, modern service centre for pensioners living in the locality, and become a centre for home care services.



ABOVE The new Coolibah Centre extension. BELOW David Scott at the old entrance to the Coolibah Club just before demolition.



WELCOME INSIGHT INTO LEGAL SYSTEM

Professions in Australia tend to exhibit a fortress mentality when confronted by the layman or, indeed, by the member of another profession. The implication being that only a person carefully trained in the mysteries of the law, medicine, social work or what have you, has any understanding of the subject.

Although specialisation is undoubtedly an important and necessary aspect of any professional development in today's diverse and fragmented society there is an increasing need for co-ordination and understanding between professions.

Nowhere is such a need so clear as in the professions which are concerned with the functioning of individuals in relation to society. For this reason, three recent publications by Butterworth's giving detailed and thorough insight into the legal system are especially welcome on the Australian scene. Each of them throws light on aspects of the law which are part and parcel of the work of social workers, probation officers, community organisers, workers with youth and children, or marriage guidance counsellors.

Duncan Chappell and Paul Wilson in 'The Australian Criminal Justice System' have brought together a series of articles written by a variety of experts including policemen, politicians, social workers, as well as judges, lawyers and magistrates. The areas covered

BOOK REVIEWS

*'The Australian Criminal Justice System' Edited by Duncan Chappell and Paul R. Wilson. \$22.50 hard, \$18.00 limp. Bourke and Fogarty's 'Maintenance, Custody and Adoption', by J.F. Fogarty. \$15.00. 'Family Law in Australia' by H.A. Finlay and A. Bisset-Johnson. \$16.00 hard, \$12.15 limp. Butterworth & Co. (Aust.) Ltd.
Reviewed by Judith O'Neill.*

'include analyses of the young offender, and of what are termed 'crimes without victims', such as homosexual offences and abortion. Of particular interest are articles about the relationship of migration and crime and the more recent phenomenon of the motoring offender. Various aspects of interrogation and arrest are discussed in detail and emphasis is placed on the protection of the citizen against abuse of the extensive powers which exist. But perhaps the most important aspect of the book is the criticism it makes of the lack of basic statistics on crime and the fact that without them, no meaningful assessment can be made of the nature and extent of crime in the Australian community.

Certainly, without such assessments, communication between those involved will not be established and reform and change in the criminal

justice system can not take place.

Butterworth's have also made available the latest edition of Bourke and Fogarty's 'Maintenance, Custody and Adoption — Victoria'. This work provides a complete reference and commentary on the law as it exists in these highly complicated areas. It is particularly valuable to social workers and marriage guidance counsellors who must often interpret the legal situation to families and individuals who are confused and emotionally upset by the train of events which have overtaken them. It is also a most useful adjunct to Finlay and Bisset-Johnson's 'Family Law in Australia' which provides an informed criticism of the existing matrimonial law and an insight into possible reforms.

'Family Law in Australia' gives an in-depth picture of the law relating to marriage, the legal status of husbands and wives, the effect of marriage on property, the status of children, the adoption process and problems of legitimacy of children. The greater part of the book discusses the breakdown of marriage and the contentious issue of divorce, of the provision of maintenance and support, of the custody of children and of the distribution of property. The authors are staunchly critical of much of current practice relating to divorce and particularly of the notion that marriage breakdown must be proved to be the fault of either of the partners. They argue persuasively that marriage is a contract based on mutual consent, and as such withdrawal of that consent removes the basis of the marriage. Their solution is couched in terms of family courts staffed by social workers, lawyers with special training in personal relations, and judges able to assess and use the expertise of psychologists, psychiatrists, pediatricians and the extensive research into human relations. From such reforms, there may be an end to the acrimony and moralising surrounding divorce, an acceptance of the fact that marriages can and do fail, and a real attempt to find solutions for all concerned.

These three books do much to add to the knowledge and understanding of the law of those in the social welfare field working with people who come into conflict with the system, either through family breakdown or criminal action. They are an essential reference and a means of developing better communications between the professions and the people in the community with whom they work.

It is to be hoped that the publishers will extend the range and that in the future we will see a similarly comprehensive statement on the law in relation to personal rights within hire purchase and other contracts and the complex area of debts and financial problems which provide such a stumbling block for so many in our society.

JUST PUBLISHED

'Housing and Poverty in Australia' by Michael Anthony Jones. Melbourne University Press. \$9.90. An examination of the functioning of our public housing program and its relevance to the alleviation of poverty.

★ COUNTRY FAIR ★

at

ST LAURENCE PARK, LARA

Saturday, November 4,
Opening 12 noon

- Swing into the Park to the rousing music of the Corio Brass Band.
- Meet Father Christmas at the Children's Lucky Dip.
- Marching Girls, Pony Rides, Train Rides.
- Stalls: cakes, sweets, gifts, books, plants, flowers, aprons, produce. Buy paintings by local artists; babies and toddlers wear from Nursery Nook.
- Don't pack a lunch — try our superb barbecue — chops, sausages, hamburgers, savalays and crisp bread rolls.
- Afternoon tea will be served from 2.30 p.m.

The Means Test: Who benefits?

'The Means Test deprives you of the money you've saved and encourages people to be mean and evasive about what money they've got.'

'There is no means test for child endowment, everyone gets it rich or poor. The citizens of the future and citizens of the past — as citizens of the past we count for nothing'.

'The level of the pension should be increased first then abolish the Means Test gradually'.

These are some of the answers which were received when we asked the pensioners themselves what they thought about the abolition of the Means Test. Generally, they felt that it should be abolished and Mr Arthur Monk of Lara even suggested reducing the base pension if necessary.

'People who have no assets and rely completely on the pension should then be treated as special cases and their needs assessed by a board,' he said.

The question of the abolition of the Means Test is a major issue in social security at the moment. The original purpose of the Means Test was to concentrate the money available for pensions on those elderly people who had very little or no income from other sources. Inevitably, people who were just excluded from receiving the pension complained and political parties responded by supporting an easing of the income limits until today two-thirds of the people of pensionable age in Australia receive a full or part pension.

Now we are talking about giving the pension to all regardless of the fact that extra money would have to be found to give to people who are already better off than those who have only the pension?

There is however, a fairly strong case for the abolition of the Means Test. Basically it divides the elderly into two mutually hostile groups. The Pensioners who fear that the pension will not increase to a liveable income if it is paid to everyone; and the elderly who, because of the Means Test, do not receive the pension. The latter contend that as taxpayers they have a right to community help and the so-called 'fringe benefits' that are available to pensioners. It can also be argued that the Means Test actively discourages thrift, encourages people to conceal and get rid of assets and penalises those who want to work.

The policy of the Combined Pensioners Association of Victoria is for a gradual phasing out of the Means Test but not at the expense of a basic, adequate, liveable pension. The pension should be related to the average male weekly earnings with supplementary allowances based on a percentage of these earnings, they

say. They also maintain that an initial step in the gradual abolition of the Means Test should be to grant recipients of General War Pensions and Superannuation payments exemption from tax on these payments, and that handicapped persons should be given the same consideration for exemption as is at present given to blind persons.

Fringe benefits

Mr Charles White, the President of the Combined Pensioner's Association points out that many who are demanding the abolition of the Means Test are often more concerned at not receiving the so-called 'fringe benefits' i.e. concessions on television and wireless licenses, travel, theatre, telephone and gas accounts, than the actual pension. 'They don't realise that they would not automatically receive these concessions. Apart from the Pensioner Medical Scheme and the telephone concession, most are granted by the State and Local Governments on a "needs" basis,' he said.

While not opposed to the easing of the Means Test the Victorian Action Committee for Pensions and Social Services Justice rejects the complete abolition of the Means Test on the grounds that this being an election year it will be done for political power rather than in the interests of the people. They contend that while people are haggling over the abolition of the Means Test hundreds of thousands of aged and invalid pensioners who depend solely on the base rate pension, the unemployed, unmarried mothers, deserted wives and all those depending on Social Services — are forgotten. The Chairman, Mr Gus Haddon, also emphasises the need to develop better hospital and home care services for aged and invalid pensioners before thinking about giving the pension to everyone.

Brotherhood priorities

In the Brotherhood's view, the priorities in pensions and policies for the aged are:

- * Fix the base pension rate to some self-adjusting index and so abolish the present annual vote catching auction about pension rates; Average weekly earnings, which reflects the general living standards of the community is the best available standard. Initially this could be fixed at say 25 per cent of average weekly earnings giving a pension of \$25. Meanwhile a more scientific examination of costs and living standards should be made to determine whether this proportion is adequate.

- * Plan and finance more effective home care services such as home nursing, meals on wheels visiting and therapy. These services would be available without any means test.

- * Phase in a non-means test compulsory contributory national superannuation scheme over a period of five years. The method of financing should not place any undue burden of taxation on low income people.

We consider that to abolish the Means Test without first raising the pension and fixing it to a self-adjusting index would be politically and socially irresponsible.

VILLAGE FAIR

at
G.K. Tucker Park, Carrum Downs
Saturday, November 4
opening at 11.30 a.m.



Pony Rides, Dodgem Cars, Hay Rides
Barbecue or sandwich lunch

Music by The Chubbies

City of Chelsea Marching Girls

Stalls — cakes, gifts, white elephant, soft toys, aprons, babies and children's knitteds, plants, pottery by local potters.

For Melbourne visitors a BUS will leave Batman Avenue at 10 a.m. for Carrum Downs. Seats can be booked at the Brotherhood Shop, 51 Royal Arcade, Melbourne. Fare 80 cents. The bus will leave Tucker Park at 2.30 p.m. for the return trip.



Left Christmas tree on turquoise background. Pack of 10 — \$1.00. Right 'Noel' modern design in striking colours on gold background. Pack of 10 — 80c. Lower Traditional woodcut print matted browns on white Pack of 10 — 60c
All cards have conventional greetings

To Miss D. Prevost, 67 Brunswick St.,
Fitzroy 3065. Telephone: 41-4151

Please sent to:

Name

Address

Postcode

..... packs Christmas Tree @ \$1.00 = \$

..... packs Noel @ 80c = \$

..... packs Flight @ 60c = \$

Plus postage (12c for first pack,

6c for each other)

Total \$

Mr. Chipp on drug threat

from good homes, good families, go to good schools.

And so the story goes in all countries similar to the U.S. and Australia, with the possible exception of Great Britain.

I ask myself: 'If this is a phenomenon which has impacted itself on countries with identical sociological, political and religious structures as our own here in Australia, is there any reason to suppose that we can afford to be complacent and to assume, as many do, it can't happen to us; can't happen to my kids; we're too pure; there's some magic that surrounds Australia; some kind of morality which will act as a shield from any kind of abuse such as this.'

This is the kind of sickening, deadening syndrome that has destroyed nations before.

To use computer

In 1969 the Government established the National Standing Control Committee to study and report on all aspects of drug abuse in Australia. On the advice of that Committee we have already spent one million dollars on a national drug education campaign.

The Federal Narcotics Bureau has been expanded to meet the challenge of increasing drug traffic and a program of overseas training of agents has been undertaken. For some time it has also been our policy to send officers of the Department to international conferences and seminars on this problem.

Later this year the Customs Department will have a computer which will enable the processing of passenger flight manifests into and out of Australia and will thus play an important future role in the apprehension of drug traffickers. This then is the situation in Australia. But the problem does not end with law enforcement, nor simply with education. The answers will be found in the community itself, in communication with each other and with our children.

It is fatal for any of us to imagine that the

family unit is the same as it was when we were teenagers. I firmly believe that today's teenagers have got enormous problems because they involve themselves in world problems. It is important to realise that it is the quality of the time parents spend with their children not just quantity that counts.

A symptom

In our search for economic stability, prosperity, technological and scientific progress I sometimes wonder whether we are not creating economic and political structures which will inevitably perpetuate our existing social problems. And I wonder whether the apparent disenchantment of our young, of young people all over the Western world, is based on a deep seated mistrust of the system.

This is a climate which leads to tensions — tensions which produce prime candidates for the tragic problem of drug abuse.

Drug abuse is not a disease in itself, but a symptom of a greater disease. Law enforcement and control of drug trafficking and abuse alone will not be enough to cut out that disease. Hand in hand with law enforcement we need education, we need compassion not simply condemnation for those who become the victims of narcotics, and dangerous drugs. We must try to better

POOL OF UNEMPLOYED

The Director of the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at the University of Melbourne, Professor Ronald F. Henderson, has warned that unemployment may well average 100,000 for the year 1972-73.

An editorial in The Australian (August 4, 1972) has even suggested that the familiar rate of unemployment, around one per cent, which is abnormally low by international standards but almost traditional here, may be a thing of the past.

Brookes Crescent Plan

In a report released last month the Fitzroy Residents' Association accuses the Housing Commission of Victoria of creating slum conditions and squandering public money in the Brooks Crescent area of North Fitzroy.

The report provides some disturbing facts about the pressures which the Housing Commission has placed on the area by purchase and demolition of sound houses in the name of slum reclamation. It states that the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in a systematic survey found that only 16 houses were unfit for human habitation while the commission put the figure at 86. Certainly the illustrations contained in the report show a pleasant inner area precinct where 75 per cent of the homes were owner occupied.

The Fitzroy Residents Association points out that

the Housing Commission has not carried out any survey to find out who lives in the area, how they feel about it or whether they want to move. Yet in the face of this the commission is prepared to redevelop the area, and increase densities which would place an impossible strain on community facilities.

The report makes it clear that there has been a sad lack of concern for the people who live in the Brooks Crescent area. They have been given little chance for participation in planning their own future and have been confused and upset by what would appear to be an arbitrary and unsympathetic attitude on the part of the Commission.

The report demands consideration and should be read by all those concerned about the shape of our cities. Copies are available from the Association, 124 Napier Street, Fitzroy. Price 75c.



understand the confusion, disillusion and despair that brings people, particularly young people to use them. In a world not of their making the young want changes and they want them quickly. They are concerned with the vital issues of world hunger, world illiteracy, racism and the horrors of war.

For this we must respect them.

The final answer then lies with the community itself, with families, with parents. It is here, at the grass roots level of society that tragic human problems begin and it is here that we must look to find their solution.

I will leave you with this thought from my favorite poet Kahlil Gibran:

'If you wish to see the valleys, climb to the mountain top; if you desire to see the mountain top, rise into the clouds; but if you seek to understand the cloud, close your eyes and think.'

Australia's latest unemployment figures are for July when the number of people out of work was 99,180

Australia could follow the pattern of the United States where, according to Tiford Gaines, senior Vice-President and Economist of Manufacturers Hanover Trust in New York, 'The United States has reached a condition of affluence in which it probably is able to produce more with a fully employed labor force than the consumption needs and wants of the public would require.

'If this is the case, two problems emerge.

'First, many new entrants to the labor force will find it necessary to work at jobs beneath their skills. Second, a growing number of unskilled or low-skilled people will find it impossible to obtain productive employment.'

The unemployment figure in the U.S. was 5.9 per cent in May 1972. In the past quarter century, only during wartime — or in periods of postwar boom — has the unemployment rate in the U.S. dipped below four per cent of the labor force. In fact government officials are becoming convinced that even a four per cent unemployment rate is an impractical goal — unless the country is willing to tolerate high levels of inflation.

The spectre of inflation looms large in the Australian economy. We must be wary that solutions to the problems do not necessitate a pool of unemployed and unemployable people.

auxiliary, headed by President Mrs L. Thornton, Secretary Mrs E. Brierley and Treasurer Mrs J. Hill, has been virtually given a shop by Mr Ernie Gray. Amongst the auxiliary members are quite a number of residents from St Laurence Park and they'll be working hard to stock the shop. They'd be grateful for any donations of clothing and household goods and these could be left at the shop, which is next to the Post Office in Walker's Road.

Liberace (well, not him personally, but his double anyway) made a dramatic entrance at Bendigo Auxiliary's dinner dance at the City Hall. Dressed in satin tails, and a ruffled shirt, he came into the Hall carrying his candelabra, music and stool, then proceeded to play the Moonlight Sonata. Guests danced and dined by candlelight and the evening was voted one of the most glamorous events in Bendigo for a long time.

Elicho Golf Course, near Lara, is the venue for a golf day in aid of the Brotherhood on 10th September. Starting at 8.30 a.m. there'll be good prizes for the competitions, barbecue facilities available, tea and sandwiches for sale, and swings and slides for the kids.

Further details from Mrs P. Jensen, phone 052 82-1833.

A black and white photograph of a man and a woman standing outdoors. The man, on the left, is wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt with a lace-up collar and a watch on his left wrist. The woman, on the right, is wearing a patterned, sleeveless top. They are standing in front of a large, light-colored building with a flat roof, possibly a school or institutional building, with trees and a grassy area in the background.

BROTHERHOOD



Well-stocked stalls of home-made cakes and jams, toys, good adult's and children's clothing, hats, records and books, jewellery, plants and home-made bread.

EXHIBITION OF
Acrylic contemporary art
based on fantasies and imaginative
realism by members of the Erika Huppert
Mutual Art Class Group.
The Brotherhood will receive a
commission on all paintings sold.

Contributions will be welcome at either 67 Brunswick Street or at the City Shop, Royal Arcade, or may be mailed free to Spencer Street Station. All clearly marked 'B.S.L. FAIR', please.

All weather players

You've got to be an early bird at St Laurence Park these days if you want to have a game of croquet. Some of their enthusiasts start at 8 a.m., and the weather doesn't have to be perfect either.

It all started after three of the residents at the Park, the Brotherhood's settlement for the active elderly at Lara, near Geelong, became interested. They'd been playing as part of their

therapy programme at Grace McKellar House in Geelong.

St Laurence Park manager, Noel Johns, and his staff prepared the green which is now of championship standard, and other residents soon needed no encouragement to join the croquet club. Resident Mrs R. Collins has been the instructor as she used to belong to a club and has played for years. Many of the players say

it has made a big difference to their lives, not only for some players who were fairly inactive before the club started, but for those who are unable to play but can sit and enjoy their spectator sport.

So if you're within hitting distance, get out your mallet, limber up and go along and join in the fun.



brotherhood gift

Send to Brotherhood of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 3065.

Donations of \$2 and over to the Brotherhood are deductible for Income Tax purposes.

I enclose my gift of \$

towards

Family Services
Services for the Aged
Youth Services

☐ Carrum Downs Village
☐ St Laurence Court, Bendigo
☐ St Laurence Park, Lara

If you would like a bag for used clothing for salvage, please tick this space. ☐

Name (Mr. Mrs. Miss)

Address

Postcode

CUT OUT AND MAIL YOUR GIFT