

In sum, the book fills a Victorian need. Considering that the dishonesty offences form a large, if not major, part of the criminal law, the book covers areas of complexity and technicality, as well as of practical difficulty, is concise and written with clarity, precision and a good deal of carefully directed thought.

It is a book which no practitioner active in the criminal law sphere, student of criminal law, or criminal law administrator, should be without.

LILLIAN LIEDER*

Federation Under Strain, Australia 1972-1975, by Geoffrey Sawer, (Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1977), pp. i-viii, 1-237. ISBN 0 522 84130 9.

Of the plethora of books which followed the untimely end of what was most probably Australia's greatest period of legislative zeal and centralist innovation, this book stands alone.

It is free from the partisan hysteria of those books which, for want of a better term, may be characterized as socio-political dissections of the Whitlam era. As Professor Sawer prefaces his work:

This book is intended as a legal companion to studies of Australian Federal Government in the Whitlam period. It is assumed that the reader is familiar with the political history of the period, or will acquire it from chronicles such as ones by political journalists mentioned in the references to chapter 8. The writer does not claim, even by inference, any access to the secret history of the times. The matters dealt with are in principle publicly available rules of public law, although even in this area there are matters — such as some of the working rules of the Australian Loan Council and the Federal Executive Council — which have to be inferred when they should long ago have been published to the world.

The book is exactly that: encyclopaedic in scope, but strictly a legal reference to the so-called 'crises' of the most recent Labor governments. Unfortunately, probably only those already familiar with Professor Sawer's work will refer to this latest book; unfortunate, as anyone interested in the political and legal history of Australia would surely enjoy the lucid exposition of the constitutional background to the more startling events of the years 1972-75. The 'Gair affair' and casual Senate vacancies;¹ overseas borrowings; the double dissolutions;² the assertion of Senate supremacy in the Parliament by means of the deferral of Supply — all are covered in great detail and placed in their legal and historical perspective. Yet, for all the purely legal discussion, the book is not heavy reading, as it is touched throughout by Professor Sawer's own humour. Even if one disagrees with his views, and his conclusions so obviously based upon his opinion as to the viability of our federal system of government, one cannot but be impressed by the clarity and simplicity of his style. He has a peculiar art of juxtaposing concepts in a quite unexpected manner and a novel method of relating elements of the system by which we are ruled; for it appears to be the system which rules, and not the will of the people.

One chapter of particular interest is that entitled 'The Whitlam A.L.P. Government 1972-5, and the Federal System'. This chapter is without a doubt a three year coverage of parliamentary and judicial business in the same vein as his magnificent

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¹ The original McLarty documents, the precedent for the convention that a Senator be replaced by a member of the same party, are published, I believe, for the first time.

² The communications on the second double dissolution of this period are collected in Appendix 2. Although these are generally well known to people at present, their collection in a book of this kind will surely be an invaluable reference in the future.

two-volume work *Australian Federal Politics and the Law 1901-1940*. That this particular approach to the analysis of our federal institutions has never been applied to the subsequent period must, I am sure, be a matter of regret to students of the law in this area.

I can but commend this book, not only to the Constitutional student, but also to the interested voter: unfortunately I sense that the conclusions drawn by Professor Sawyer on our federal system will go largely unnoticed and that the book will be relegated to the 'quick constitutional reference' shelves. What a pity. For this book is not only an explicit statement of the legal background of the period of Labor dominance in the House of Representatives, but for those who watched with compassion as a great social and political adventure took its almost inevitable course, this book is a nostalgic voyage through our recent past.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

Reallocation of Property on Divorce, by Kevin J. Gray, (Professional Books Ltd Great Britain, 1977), ISBN 0 903486 36 9.

Negotiated Justice: Pressure on Defendants to Plead Guilty, by John Baldwin and Michael McConville, (Martin Robinson & Co. Ltd, London, 1977), ISBN 0 85520 171 1.

Digest of Cases on Compensation for Resumption of Land, by J. P. Brennan, (Butterworths Pty Ltd, Australia, 1977), ISBN 0 409 39050 X.

Working Paper 19: Criminal Law Theft and Fraud, Law Reform Commission of Canada, (Minister of Supply and Services, Canada, 1977), ISBN 0 662 009193.

The Law of Wills, by I. J. Hardingham, M. A. Neave and H. A. J. Ford, (The Law Book Co. Ltd, Sydney, 1977), ISBN 0 455 19546 3.

An Introduction to the Securities Industry Acts, by R. Baxt, H. A. J. Ford and G. J. Samuel, (Butterworths Pty Ltd, Australia, 1977), ISBN 0 409 33030 4.

Proceedings of the Institute of Criminology No. 31 — Bail No. 2, Sydney University Law School, (N.S.W. Government Printer, Sydney, 1977), ISSN 085 7033.

Credit and Security in Australia, by D. E. Allan, M. E. Hiscock, L. Masel and D. Roebuck, (Crane, Russak & Co., Inc., New York, 1977), ISBN 0 7022 1344 6.

Yugoslav Law Nos. 1, 2 of 1977, Union of Jurists Associations of Yugoslavia and the Institute of Comparative Law, (Belgrade, 1977), ISSN 0350 2252.

Criminological Materials in the Parliamentary Papers of Australia and New Zealand from 1901, by S. White and A. Edwards, (A.N.U. Press, Canberra, 1977), ISBN 0 7081 0827 X.

Taxation of Company Groups, by the Taxation Institute Research and Education Trust, (Sydney, 1977), ISBN 0 9596715 2 8.

A Guide to Company Law, by Z. Hribar, (Law Book Co. Ltd, Australia, 1978), ISBN 0 455 1907 9.

Delegated Legislation in Australia and New Zealand, by D. C. Pearce, (Butterworths Pty Ltd, Australia, 1977), ISBN 0 409 31820 5.

Substantive Criminal Law, by M. Cherif Bassiouni, (Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, U.S.A., 1978), ISBN 0 398 03628 4.

Review of Administrative Action, by H. Whitmore and M. Aronson, (Law Book Co. Ltd, Australia, 1978), ISBN 0 455 19592 7.

Principles of Company Law, by H. A. J. Ford, (2nd ed., Butterworths Pty Ltd, Australia, 1978), ISBN 0 409 43568 6.

Guide to the Family Law Act 1975, by P. E. Nygh, (2nd ed., Butterworths Pty Ltd, Australia, 1978), ISBN 0 409 43764 6.

Section 260 of the Income Tax Assessment Act (constituting a 2nd ed., of Arrangements for the Avoidance of Taxation), by I. C. F. Spry, (Law Book Co. Ltd, Sydney, 1978), ISBN 0 455 19703 2.

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