

understandable by all. He believed that the Court's decisions should be explained to those who reported them, to the public and to those affected by them. The Court, in involved cases, has done this from time to time, but I think he had in mind more sustained and widespread action.

His approach to the judicial art has, I think, obscured his worth as a lawyer. He had, beyond dispute, a powerful and original mind. If he had constitutional preconceptions, well, he was not alone in that. It would be difficult to find a Justice without them. In argument he went quickly to the core of the problem and dealt with counsel with unfailing courtesy and humour. His tragically early death left a gap on the Court that will not soon or easily be filled.

His influence will not I think be immediately felt. But I imagine many of those who as students have read his judgements will carry into their professional and judicial careers the impact of those pithy legal certainties in which his judgments abound. □

## Sagas in Law

The long running *Southern Cross v. Offshore Oil* case which went for days in front of the Chief Judge in Equity, Mr. Justice Waddell, may have set records in New South Wales but it pales into insignificance compared with a case which is running in the United States.

In January 1979 a railroad tank car spilt less than a teaspoon of dioxin in Sturgeon, Mo.

In February 1984 the trial of a law suit filed by residents of Sturgeon began in the St. Clare County Court in Belleville presided over by Judge Richard Goldenhersh. In December 1986 the case was still going and the twelve jurors, and two alternates, hearing the case were about to break for their third Christmas.

The central issue is whether the residents were injured by the chemical. Dozens of medical experts have testified. One a physician and immunologist, was in the witness box for three months.

The jurors have become close friends, celebrating birthdays and anniversaries together. They have had two week vacations as well as breaking on two occasions to allow jurors to honeymoon and one to recover from an emergency appendectomy. □

## Australian Federal Police — Interviews with Suspects in the presence of Solicitors.

A member of the Association drew the Bar Council's attention to an incident which occurred when some members of the Australian Federal Police, who allowed a solicitor to attend the interrogation of a suspect would not, however, permit him to interrupt the proceedings to advise his client.

The President wrote to the Commissioner of Police of the Australian Federal Police pointing out that the Council's view was that a person in police custody facing interrogation who has his solicitor present should have the right to seek such advice as he thinks fit from time to time.

R.J. McCabe, the Assistant Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police (Eastern Division), responded

## On the Roof

Anyone who takes their midday stroll on the roof of Wentworth and Selborne Chambers these days will find workmen busily constructing a roof garden and barbecue area there. It appears that Counsel's Chambers has decided the denizens of Phillip Street should be lured away from their subterranean dining room to enjoy the sunlight and fresh air of the rooftop at lunchtime.

There is to be a restaurant which, presumably, will provide the fatted calf for the charcoal and usual barbecue features such as foil wrapped spuds, coleslaw, tomato sauce etc. It will not be licensed but you will probably be able to get high just breathing the fumes wafting up from the traffic in Phillip Street. There are also showers in the bathrooms so sweaty joggers can clean up there as well as in the showers in the basement.

The roof garden will be available for hire for functions in the evenings.

Counsel's Chambers intends to inform the huddled masses in Wentworth and Selborne Chambers of their new playground around Easter. It is hoped the announcement will be made well before the crisp winter air means no-one will dare set foot on the roof. □

## Tune in . . .

Those who set their clock radios on 2MBS-FM to awake them between the hours of midnight to dawn could be forgiven for thinking when they awaken to the dulcet tones of the announcer that they are already in court and an equity court to boot. This is because the recently retired Chief Judge in Equity, Michael Manifold Helsham, has kicked over the traces and taken up a career with that radio station.

Starting as a telephonist, the former Chief Judge's talents were rapidly recognised and after an initial training period he rose to the position of announcer of some of the station's musical programmes. Not content with that, and no doubt thinking wistfully of his days as an advocate, he has persuaded 2MBS to depart from its usual music format to allow him to give vent to his cross examination skills in a programme entitled "Powerpoint", in which he interviews such notables as Dame Leonie Kramer. □

to the President's letter. He has agreed to take the necessary action to ensure that members of the Australian Federal Police under his command do not place unjustified restrictions on a solicitor called upon to advise his client during an interview.

Members of the Bar are reminded that they should not attend police interviews save in exceptional circumstances as their presence may render them liable to be called as witnesses in the proceedings and expose them to difficulties in retaining or accepting a brief in the matter: see Bar Rules 4 (g) and (h).

It would not, however, be inappropriate for counsel to remain outside the interview room and be consulted by the solicitor from time to time if desired. □