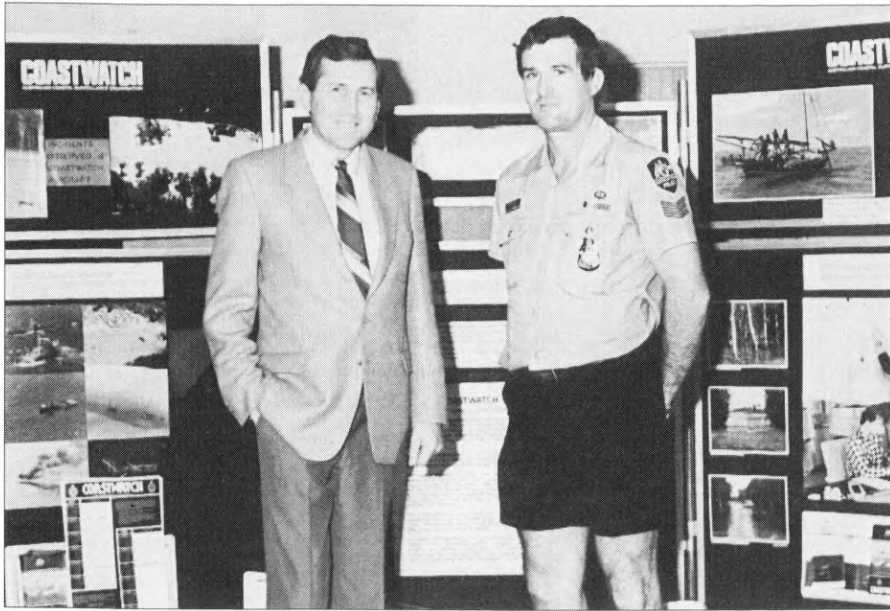


AFP TOPS SAYS MINISTER



Senator Tate during a visit to the Coastal Protection Unit Regional Centre in Darwin on 8 & 9 July with Acting Station Sergeant Les Summerfield.

THE Minister for Justice, Senator Michael Tate, had high praise for the AFP recently when replying to a question in the Senate about drug seizures.

Senator Tate told the chamber that following AFP action in Queensland and New South Wales about 160 kilograms of hashish and more than \$400,000 had been seized. Ten people, both US and Australian citizens, had been arrested and other investigations were continuing.

'This operation is a tribute to the AFP not only in its technique of targeting principal criminal figures, but also in demonstrating the high degree of liaison and co-operation between the law enforcement agencies which characterised this operation,' he said.

'Both the Australian Customs Service and the Director of Public Prosecutions have been closely involved... At the international level the AFP liaison officers facilitated very good and effective contact with law enforcement agencies overseas, all of whose co-operation was essential to the success of this operation.'

Senator Tate described the AFP as the Federal Government's 'premier law enforcement agency', saying that in the last year or so the public had become increasingly aware of the role of the Force in tackling organised crime and drug trafficking.

'When this government came to power it gave the AFP a charter which made it clear its priority objectives were to tackle organised crime, particularly in relation to drug trafficking... these sorts of arrests... are a tribute to the way that organisation has responded...'

He added that moves were underway to seize several million dollars worth of assets from the syndicate involved in the latest AFP operation. He said he had found the public was greatly pleased with the proceeds of crime legislation passed through the Autumn session of Parliament.

'In general it is thought throughout the community that upon conviction... of a drug trafficker... that it is not adequate that the person suffer a gaol sentence of even four, five, 10 or 15 years if at the end of that process they can... enjoy the fruits of their nefarious activities.'

Senator Tate said it was important that the profit motive be attacked by stripping convicted criminals of the proceeds of crime; crime which led to death, destruction and degradation, particularly of young people.

Police Force Co-operation

Speaking to 'Platypus' outside the Senate, the Minister commented on the level of co-operation between police forces in Australia.

Senator Tate said increasing co-operation had grown in the past four years following the work of the Joint Parliamentary Committee into the setting up of the National Crime Authority.

'Trust has been built up and it's largely a tribute to the commissioners involved,' he said.

'That trust between them is fairly solidly based and it permeates down. There's a sound foundation for continuing co-operation.'

Expanding on remarks he made during an ABC 'Four Corners' programme on September 21, which discussed the issues of corruption and organised crime, and where he expressed his absolute confidence in the AFP Commissioner, Major-General Ronald Grey, Senator Tate said the type of integrity demonstrated by Commissioner Grey was very important at the top of any police force.

'Honest officers must be sure any allegations of impropriety or corruption will be investigated. It's just as important for new recruits to have a role model which might enable them to resist temptation. If they think the man at the top is corrupt or may turn a blind eye, why should they resist temptation?' Senator Tate said.

SUCCESSOR SOUGHT

The Office of the Minister for Justice has advertised in the national press for a successor to Commissioner Grey who retires in February next year. Applications closed on October 16.

Senator Tate has told 'Platypus' that advertising the position has been restricted to Australia and any suitable Australian candidate.

The successful candidate will be responsible for nearly 3,200 staff and a budget which for 1987/88 is about \$150 million.

The criteria for the position are:

- A record of achievement and innovation in the management and administration of a large organisation, preferably but not necessarily in the area of law enforcement;
- proven skills in managing organizational change and development;
- a high level of conceptual, analytical and interpersonal skills, with demonstrated ability to advise Ministers;
- a sound knowledge of issues related to policing in a modern society and the functions and operations of policing services.

The position is offered for full-time appointment for an initial period of up to five years. The salary is negotiable, commensurate with the high level of responsibility involved.