

force of the NCA are Police Officers, from the AFP and all Police Forces in Australia.

*Goward:* And you are happy with the situation like that; would you like to see it extended?

*Commissioner:* It's not a question of extending it, as I said in the long term, I would hope that the need for an organisation like the NCA would disappear. In the meantime there will be disputes about what sort of resources I can second to the NCA, and from time to time these will be in conflict, but I have found that in talking to people, we manage to resolve our conflicts and, certainly, I found that in talking to Judge Stewart,

...

*Goward:* Well you're a lot nicer about him than he is about Police, if I might say so.

*Commissioner:* Oh well, hopefully I'm a nice person. That's not saying that he isn't.

*Goward:* He says he wouldn't have a policeman on his Authority.

*Commissioner:* That's his privilege, that's his view. He's entitled to it of course.

*Goward:* What do you want to do with the Australian Federal Police? Why did you take the job on when you know you'd already been a Police Commissioner?

*Commissioner:* I think that the role of the AFP is very attractive to the professional policeman. I came from the Northern Territory where it was totally a community policing responsibility. We didn't have much in the way of organised crime

— very little — so we responded to the needs of the community, and I think we did it fairly well. I think the Northern Territory Police Force is a very good force, but it wasn't tackling the sort of problems which I believe are so important to the community in the longer term, and it wasn't tackling that problem because the problem didn't exist.

*Goward:* Isn't there organised crime everywhere?

*Commissioner:* There is organised crime everywhere, but on a scale that's very low in the Northern Territory by comparison to the rest of the country.

*Goward:* Do you have any particular expertise yourself in organised crime work.

*Commissioner:* Before I went to the Northern Territory I was Chief of the CIB in South Australia, and I suppose most of my operational career was as a detective. Although it wasn't in the forefront of our programs in the Northern Territory, I've been a member of joint controlled organisations like the National Police Research Unit, and the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence — I was Chairman of that for a while — I've been involved in the Australian Police Ministers Council, the Senior Officers Group of the Australian Police Council, establishing the National Institute of Forensic Science, so I wasn't out of touch with what I regard as the big issues in this country.

*Goward:* And you're obviously very committed to the idea of stamping out organised crime. You take it seriously

and I say that because a lot of people think it's something that is only seen in the movies and books.

*Commissioner:* No, I take it very seriously. I mean it's been with us for a long time. It was a long time before it was properly identified. This was one of the positive things to come out of the Commissions of Inquiry like Costigan, and some others, which was to increase public awareness, . . . and get these things a priority, and to see the community realised its problem.

*Goward:* And, of course, there are still a lot of people who aren't quite sure what organised crime is. Have you got a simple definition?

*Commissioner:* No, there is no simple definition, it's a group of people conspiring to injure the community to make profits.

*Goward:* And it requires organisation because of the complexity and the size of crime.

*Commissioner:* Oh yes. As a young detective I was making perhaps 40 arrests a quarter. That was sort of the norm in those days, and that's rather different to the figures that have been promulgated in this week's issue of the Bulletin [May]. But none of us were really tackling those major problems, perhaps we didn't know that they existed. Certainly they had no priority in those days. Now-a-days, of course, many of our investigations involve huge teams of people to cover two or three years of investigations. We used to carry our exhibits and our briefs around in our hip pockets; now we move them around in 3-ton trucks.

## . . . and on the media

**COMMISSIONER Peter McAulay is urging senior AFP officers to be more media aware as part of efforts to lift the public profile of the force.**

"Outside the ACT I don't think the average member of the public knows much about the AFP at all," he said when opening an AFP Media Awareness Course at the AFP College, Barton, on April 11.

"The AFP has to put an emphasis on good media relations.

"I have found the vast majority of media people to be well motivated and well meaning and trying to do an important job for the community."

Alluding to traditional police caution towards the media, Commissioner McAulay said the AFP needed to get its

message out nationally to the people of Australia.

At present the work of the AFP was not given enough prominence in the national media.

"In the main the only way to know what the AFP is doing is to study every newspaper in Australia," he said.

"We need the media. We must find a way of improving our image by using the media.

"It is important that in appropriate circumstances we are not frightened to front up to the media and say what needs to be said."

But the credit had to go to the right people.

Commissioner McAulay said it was very frustrating from an operative's point of view to see the boss stand up and take the praise after a successful operation.

"In essence the upper echelons must make statements on policy and other officers statements on operations."

Commissioner McAulay warned that statements to the media could not be

allowed to prejudice future or current operations and that if there was any doubt officers should err on the side of caution.

He said the very success of the media could pose problems.

No one could deny that the Watergate case in the United States which brought about the downfall of President Nixon and the Fitzgerald Inquiry in Queensland highlighted the media's ability to bring attention to public issues that perhaps nobody else could bring out.

But it was unfortunate that almost every journalist now regarded himself as an investigative reporter in the Watergate mould.

"That makes them extremely difficult to deal with for people like us but we need the media.

"It is necessary to have information promulgated and the only way is with the co-operation of the media. At the same time it is necessary to use the media to build the image of the organisation," he said.