

that they considered the way Beech arrived at his findings and recommendations denied the accused cops the right of due process. They totally ignored the point that the Beech inquiry came about because of the overwhelming complaints that the cops in Victoria were denying the citizens of the state, who were unlucky to come into their hands, due process. If you think that contains Catch 22 overtones for every Victorian other than the cops, you'd be right.

And in Queensland the bashing of a woman student by a police inspector and a shocking raid in Cedar Bay, both of which Whitrod condemned, had no small part in Whitrod being forced by politicians and cops to resign.

Must we always remain the puppets of the cops and politicians?

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## New Zealand Notes

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During the election campaign in November 1975 the conservative National opposition excelled in exploiting fear. Fear of immigrants, especially from the Pacific Islands, fear of trade unions, fear of state control, fear of inflation, fear of a loss of freedom, were all highlighted in political propaganda in a manner not seen in New Zealand for many years. The campaign resulted in the election of a right wing government, led by R.D. Muldoon.

A principal feature of this government, and particularly evident with the Prime Minister, is its inability to respond to criticism in any way other than with a personal attack upon the critics. Among a number of foreign affairs fiascos this year, fiascos which largely occurred because of the present government's attachment to right wing governments elsewhere in the world was the tour to South Africa by the All Blacks. The tour was given Muldoon's blessing and his response to the many organisations who opposed the tour, was not to answer their comments, but to describe their activities as bordering upon treason.

Industrial relations initially amounted to a policy of government threats, although there has been some realisation that negotiation and conciliation are more effective. There now remains the task of restoring some degree of industrial harmony in a year which has been notable for considerable industrial unrest.

Within the criminal justice field, the government's first action was to repeal the name suppression legislation enacted in 1975 which provided, subject to some exceptions, for the automatic suppression of the names of all accused until conviction, and completely if acquitted. The campaign against the legislation was led by the newspapers, and New Zealand has a conservative tradition in this area. The repeal of the legislation was welcomed by few except the newspaper industry who had continued to object to the legislation which they regarded as inimical to their business interests.

Another example of the link between economic interests and the criminal justice process has been clearly apparent this year. Many visitors from var-

ious Pacific Islands, Tonga and Samoa in particular, come to New Zealand each year on 3 or 6 month work permits. A proportion stay on illegally each year, although subject to deportation if apprehended. It is believed that New Zealand has a special relationship with some of the Pacific Islands and the issue of work permits has been regarded as aid to the Pacific. However, following an economic recession last year, the number of such permits issued has decreased considerably. It is now being increasingly realised that Pacific Islanders are economic units to be used as and when it suits our business interests. Strenuous efforts have also been made to locate overstayers, arrest them, bring them before the courts and order deportation.

Yet some New Zealanders are wondering why relationships with some Pacific nations have cooled since the beginning of this year.

Increases in staff within government departments are rigidly controlled at present as part of the government's financial stringencies. The Police was the one agency of state exempted to some degree, although the government was later forced to increase Justice department staff to cope with the work increase imposed by the steadily burgeoning police force.

In late July, New Zealand achieved a landmark few would be proud of – the number in custody reached 3,000 for the first time – a rate of 96 per 100,000 of the population. This represents an increase of some 20% in custody in two years. Consequently prisons have become even more crowded, although only one disturbance has reached the media so far.

Incidentally, earlier this year another landmark was achieved. A prisoner at Paremōmō, the modern maximum security technological fortress, escaped although his freedom was brief. The myth of invincibility of the institution was destroyed.

Not all aspects of the criminal justice process are either stagnating or moving backwards. The Justice Department has a liberal humane tradition. Little dramatic change can be expected but a Juries Bill is at present proceeding through Parliament. The Bill removes some of the sexual discrimination in preparing jury lists and hopefully, the jury box will soon not be the predominantly male preserve it has been for so long.

A myth, previously carefully nurtured by most politicians, has been that New Zealand is an egalitarian society where decisions have been reached as a result of consensus. We now have confrontation politics, where the previous disguised conflicts are now apparent for all to see. The crudity of the reactionary government does not have the full support of all National Party members, but while it keeps them in power, they will tolerate to some extent the authoritarian ideology. The leaders in the government are well aware that should they fail to fulfill their promises, many of their supporters will not be upset to see a less domineering leadership.

This is matched by the present leadership's desire to remain in power and they have used people and groups as scapegoats to achieve their ambitions. The Socialist Unity Party, a small Moscow aligned party has been the main target to date, giving them a status out of all proportion to their size and influence. The groups yet to be abused for political reasons will have to face a torrid time, but must survive to illustrate the barrenness and barbarity of right wing politics in this country.