

E D I T O R I A L

In this issue of the Alternative Criminology Journal we reprint in full and in its original form, the second part of the Prisoners' Action Group written submission to the N.S.W. Royal Commission into Prisons. The submission was the result of the collective effort of the following people: David Brown, Gil Boehringer, Stephen Catt, Paul Ekstein, Helen Golding, Tony Green, Russell Hogg, Bob Jewson, Matt Peacock, Glenys Pernu and George Zdenkowski.

The terms of reference of the Royal Commission, dated 28th June, 1976, required the Commissioner, Mr. Justice Nagle:

"to inquire into and report upon the general working of the Department of Corrective Services of New South Wales, its policies, facilities and practices in the light of contemporary penal practice and knowledge of crime and its causes; and without restricting the generality of the foregoing, to inquire into and report upon :-

- (a) the custody, care and control of prisoners and the relationship between staff and prisoners;
- (b) the selection and training of prison officers and of other staff engaged in training, correctional and rehabilitative programmes for prisoners;

and to recommend any legislative and other changes necessary or desirable in consequence of your findings" (see appendix A p. 494 Royal Commission Report, Govt. Printer 1978)

After lengthy discussions the PAG decided to structure its written submissions in three parts:

PART 1 Knowledge of Crime and its Causes

Part 11 Contemporary Penal Practice in N.S.W.

PART 111 Abolition

Part 1 was reprinted in the previous issue (Vol. 3 No. 2, Nov. 1979) of the ACJ and we intend to reprint Part 111 as the next issue. For comment on how the PAG submissions were treated, the aftermath of the Royal Commission and limitations to be kept in mind when reading the submissions ... see the editorial in the last issue.

A careful reading of the PAG submissions to the Royal Commission will show clearly the extensive (and unacknowledged) use of this 2nd PAG submission in the compilation of the Royal Commission Report. This is in marked contrast with the other 2 sections of the PAG submissions: Section 1 Knowledge of Crime and its Causes, and Section 111 Abolition, both of which were ignored, or more correctly, evaded, in the Commission Report. [NOTE: The appendices and annexures referred to in the text of our original submission to the Royal Commission have not been included in this reprint for reasons of space and cost.]

Comment received thus far has been favourable and the reprinting of our Royal Commission submissions applauded. We welcome comment on and criticism of these submissions. And don't forget those subscriptions to ACJ and Jail News.

David Brown
George Zdenkowski

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