

## FREE FOR ALL

The never ending battle between 'concerned' citizens and librarians about the type of material which should be housed in libraries, is on again.

This time the 'target' is Ron Lander, Chief Librarian of Waverley Council Library, NSW.

Mr Lander appears to have offended an Alderman of the Council by having pamphlets in the library which advertised a rally for marijuana reform. The rally, sanctioned by the police, was held outside Parliament House on February 19.

At a meeting of Waverley Council last month, the Alderman, a member of the police force, told the Council he had received a complaint about the pamphlets being available in the library, and called for stricter control over the type of literature available in the library.

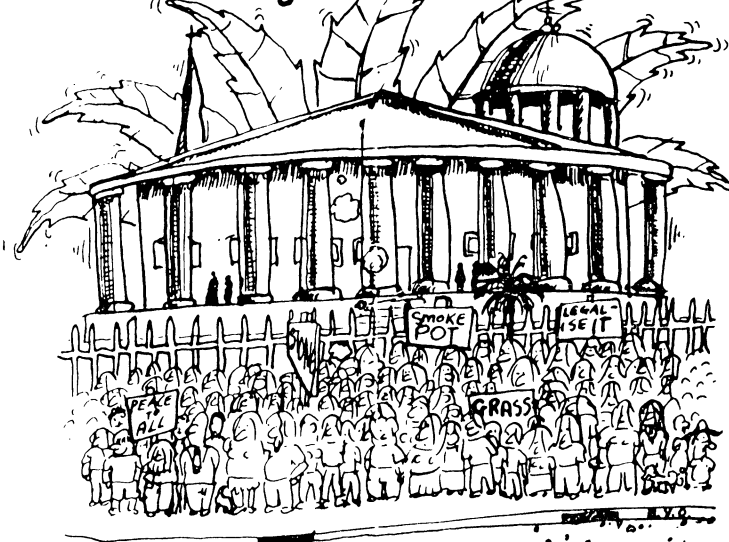
We spoke with Ron Lander this week, who told us that 'a few weeks ago a group calling themselves the Marijuana Petition Organisation had left some pamphlets on the library's information stand in the adult section of the library.'

'The literature was not authorised by any member of staff,' Mr Lander said, 'but that is not to

# RALLY

come and state your case.

## for Marijuana Law Reform



Parliament House, NOON  
TUESDAY 19TH FEB.

*There is no law against seeking to change the law, only against breaking it.....*

The 'offending' pamphlets

say I would necessarily have refused to display it if a request had been made.'

Mr Lander believes that 'the library's book selection cannot be inhibited by the beliefs of individuals or groups in the community. There should be no bias when deciding what literature should be available.'

'After all,' said Mr Lander, 'we are meant to be a democratic institution.'

'I must admit there's plenty of material on the shelves which I personally believe is insidious propaganda, but as a librarian I would not ban such literature from the library,' he said.

In case anyone is unfamiliar with the Library Association of Australia's 'Information Policy Statement The Need to Know' (it can be found in the *Handbook* - plug!) we quote: 'Each Australian has an equal right to information regardless of the way or for what purpose it is used, or his or her economic or social status, educational achievement, geographic location, race, colour or beliefs ... Material should not be rejected on the grounds that its content is controversial or likely to offend some sections of the library's community ...'

## Technological change — some win, some lose

There may be a connection between technological change and unemployment, but the temptation to depict this as a simple case of cause and effect should be resisted, according to Professor Sol Encel, Head of the School of Sociology at the University of New South Wales. He was addressing the 1980 Annual General Meeting of the LAA's NSW Branch on the subject of 'Technological change — its impact on society and the workforce'.

His wide-ranging paper that considered notions of work, changes in the workforce and current reactions to recent, rapid technological change provided a counterbalance to the exaggeration that has characterised much of the writing on this subject, whilst recognising the possibility of technical unemployment in some fields.

As he pointed out, generations of writers pondering the future of work had speculated on the likely impact of technological developments. Contemporary discussion was distinguished by forebodings concerning unemployment, past generations of writers having regarded the development of sophisticated mechanical and automated devices as a way of eliminating hard, unremitting labour, indeed, the fantasy of a 'toil free' Utopia has been a

popular theme with some novelists. What remains to be determined is the real impact of technological change on the workforce.

The workforce itself, he considers, has undergone considerable change in this century, much of it related to technological development. Numbers of occupations have increased, as has occupational mobility; working hours have decreased; women's

occupational status has changed and there has been a shift from rural and manufacturing industries to service industries. Perhaps most significant of all has been the growth of the 'information industry' concerned with the production, distribution, storage and handling of information in one form or another.

It is this sector of the workforce that is most vulnerable to the impact of technological change as evidenced in the microprocessor revolution. Inflation provides a strong motivation for employers to reduce costs, use of the new technologies provides them with the means of doing so by enabling a reduction in staff numbers. The service industries are particularly susceptible to the use of the new technologies.

The possible implications have provoked varying and vociferous reactions from employers and employee organisations. The possible effects of technological change have become an 'issue'. That the Commonwealth government recognises this can be seen in its establishment of a Commission of Inquiry into Technological Change in Australia (CITCA). On the outcome of this inquiry Professor Encel was cautious given its scope, its relatively limited time for investigation and the



Sol Encel

# LAA to 'hit the road'?

In August 1979 the LAA General Council commissioned a Working Party to investigate the location of LAA Headquarters. The Working Party is to report in 1980. The membership of the Working Party is Barry McIntyre, Victorian Branch (Convener); Brenda Gerrie, ACT Branch, and Pixie Crook, Queensland Branch.

Council also gave authority for the Association to sell a property it owned in Canberra. The sale price for the property was \$44,750 and the sale yielded \$42,022 after deducting legal fees and agent's charges. This amount is now invested in an interest bearing deposit. Annual rent for the existing headquarters is \$14,500, and maintenance and electricity charges for 1980 are expected to be \$4100. The lease expires in July 1982.

The Working Party is prepared to receive submissions outlining any facts and/or opinions that any division or individual member believes to be relevant to this enquiry. In particular, the Working Party is interested to hear what members believe are the most important functions of the LAA Office and which Australian city (or cities, if the Headquarters was decentralised) would offer the optimum location for the performance of those functions.

The existing functions performed by Headquarters are:

- (i) clerical and administrative support to the Executive Committee, General Council, the Board of Education and other standing committees;
- (ii) membership services;
- (iii) industrial relations and employment-related issues;
- (iv) provision of some meeting and storage facilities;
- (v) serial and monograph publishing and distribution;

## NO DISCRIMINATION

LATE last year the Victorian Branch of the Association suggested that a statement on Non-Discrimination in the Employment of Library Staff should be adopted by the Association. It is published now at the request of the Executive for comment by the members of the Association prior to it being presented for the consideration of General Council.

The Library Association of Australia, in what it believes to be the interests of the community, adopts the following statement in principle:

- 1 All staff employed in libraries should be appointed without discrimination on the grounds of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, disability, economic circumstance, individual lifestyle or political or social views.
- 2 Persons responsible for the selection of library staff at every level are encouraged to base their selection of staff for library employment solely on the basis of the suitability of their qualifications, experience and individual merit for appointment to the position to be filled.

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(vi) co-ordination of continuing education programming and support for conference planning; and

(vii) promotion of libraries and librarianship, including careers information.

It has been argued that the location of the Headquarters also may be important to the success of lobbying activities and co-operative ventures with the various levels of government, public administration, and other organisations that share some common interests with the Association's objectives and services.

For the information of submission writers: the Sydney office, apart from an *ad hoc* job placement service, offers no more support to NSW divisions than is given to those in other states and territories.

The deadline for submissions is 31 May 1980. They should be mailed to the Convener at 78 Jeffrey Drive, Ringwood, Vic 3134.

Barry McIntyre

## Technological change

Continued from page 1

fact that in many instances material supplied to it is patchy or speculative.

Summing up, Professor Encel refused to make large statements about the impact of technological change. Technology has shown that it has the power simultaneously to create new opportunities and new jobs while rendering others obsolete. Increased job opportunities may result in the short term, however unemployment may also increase in many areas.

Together with Professor Jarlath Ronayne from the School of History and Philosophy of Science, Professor Encel has just received a \$70,000 General Development Fund Grant from UNSW. They will use it to set up a program concerned with the relationships between technology, science and society, with Professor Encel concentrating his attention initially on the impact of technological change on the Australian economy in the past 30 years.

Marilyn Bryce

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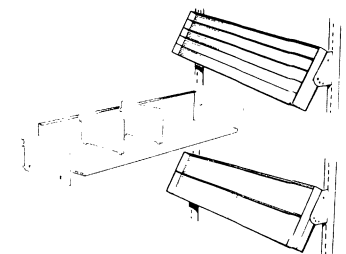
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