

*The President*

MELBOURNE LEGACY.

NOTES ON SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING ON 14TH SEPTEMBER, 1967 -BRANCHES AND SECTIONS.

Present: Legatees Dore (Chairman), Lobb, Robertson, Evans, Lovell, McAuley.

Resume: Tentative decisions reached at previous meeting were reviewed :-

1. Convert Sections to Branches
2. Eliminate some Sections in the process of merger.
3. Convert all Sections to Branches on same date if possible.
4. Have two committees (a) Contact  
(b) Branches Administration
5. Chairman, Contact, to be member of Branches Administration Committee.
6. Both committees continue to be represented on J.L.C. and some thought be given to Contact representation on Board.
7. Board to be asked to confirm following principles:-
  - (a) Personnel Committee transferring Legatees from Sections to Branches.
  - (b) Contact Committee allocating families to a Legatee living outside the family's area.

Further progress: Appeared to be generally acceptable that -

- (a) We could change the names of all Sections to Branches.
- (b) That we could probably get the new Branches to accept responsibility for appointment of First Contactors and Visiting Contactors, but would need to educate and encourage them towards acceptance of Branch responsibilities.
- (c) That we would require two committees to deal with the respective responsibilities of Contact and Branches administration.
- (d) Although not formally discussed it seems likely that Items 5, 6 and 7 in the "Resume" above would also be acceptable.

Reservations:

There were reservations on many grounds concerning Item 2 above - the elimination of Sections. These included the possibility of leaving gaps in coverage, the likelihood of re-development of inner suburban areas, the upheaval involved in re-drawing boundaries, and distances that Legatees may be required to travel. It was further suggested that we had perhaps built up artificial barriers around Sections and Branches to such an extent that they prohibited the logical movement of Legatees to families.

Fundamentals:

As this survey proceeds it appears to be falling into two relatively clear-cut divisions:-

- (a) Bringing all Branches and Sections on to a uniform basis under a single control. In general terms this presents no insurmountable problems.
- (b) Bringing together Legatees residing in inner suburban areas where there are few new families, and families living in outer suburban areas where there are few Legatees to service them. This question presents the real problem.

In dealing with (b) there is one indisputable fact that cannot be altered or evaded, and which cannot be corrected by changing names, boundaries or administrative processes - there are not sufficient families in Section areas generally to keep the Legatees residing there fully occupied.

To provide full employment and continuing interest for those

Considerations:

Points discussed in considering easing of work load on Branches and more effective use of Section Legatees included:

- (a) Merger of a Branch and Section would take Branch strength over the acceptable maximum of 40 members.
- (b) Section boundaries could be extended to include more territory.
- (c) New members within reason could be posted to the present Branches rather than Sections.
- (d) Section Legatees could be allocated families in Branch areas where limited travelling only was involved.
- (e) Branches may object to intrusion of Section Legatees in their areas. (Doubt whether this is relevant as every Branch and Section would have intrusion at present).
- (f) Was it necessary for a Legatee to report and be responsible to the Chairman of the area in which his Legacy family was located?
- (g) This could not be a "rush" job as a considerable amount of education was required and an understanding of the necessity for any changes had to be cultivated, to avoid ill feeling or resentment.
- (h) Any immediate strain might be eased by transfer of up to, say, three Legatees from Sections, to Branches that were under pressure.
- (i) May be necessary to establish new Branches.

Conclusions:

No firm conclusions attempted, but problem a bit clearer in perspective. Considered that close and quiet liaison between Contact and Personnel may lead to pin-pointing of current pressure spots, and as circumstances permitted, the posting of Legatees to provide relief in the short-term.

Agreed that a night meeting desirable to give time for a complete run-through in nature of a "tactical exercise without troops".

Next meeting - THURSDAY, 26th October, 1967 at 7.30 p.m. at Legacy House.

AVD/HG

A.V. DORE  
CHAIRMAN.