

## COMMENTS ON PRESIDENTIAL YEAR - 1977

Changes occur every year and this year has seen two major changes coming to the fore.

Firstly, the age of an average Legatee is becoming more noticeable and this together with the greater number of Legatees now retired from active life in the business world, has showed up in a declining interest in active participation with the new direction of Legacy involvement.

The second major change which became this year more pronounced than ever, is the change from involvement with widows with families to widows without dependant children, some of whom are very elderly. The implementation of the "initial visit" scheme was designed to encourage the closer contact by individual Legatees with the widows. This was on the decline, most new widows having been processed by Social Workers in Legacy House.

### VISITATIONS :

I suggest that the President should make visits to Groups of Melbourne Legacy change-over dinners a top priority, and as the work load is becoming increasingly heavy, would suggest that visits to other Clubs should be given 2nd priority unless protocol and historical reasons should make the visit necessary.

The Legacy story which the President has to deliver, I found should be directed to combating the apparent public opinion that "The need for Legacy should be finished". Most visitors expressed interest in the on-going plans of Legacy.

The move for a mixed changeover dinner of Melbourne Legacy became strong and investigations were commenced. The main difficulties were finding a large enough venue which was available, and secondly the costs in Melbourne area of such a dinner, not only for Melbourne Legatees but visiting Legatees.

The number of guests previously invited to dinners proved a problem which to some extent was overcome by inviting them to smaller "Cocktail Parties" with the Board and suitably interested Specialist Legatees.

### COMRADESHIP :

The declining attendances at Comradeship functions is of concern as it is my belief that this is the backbone and the major reason of Legacy's success over many years. As mentioned above, many Legatees are now retired and the physical effort of changing clothes from their gardening gear, transporting themselves to Melbourne Central, finding parking, together with the time involvement, are major reasons for the decline in attendance, and also I suggest Tuesday luncheons, both of which I hasten to suggest should be maintained.

### COMMUNICATIONS :

The length of time required for adequate communications from Board to Floor Member Legatee and action back to Board, is of great concern to a President endeavouring to accomplish something in his year. With the advancing age of Legatees, directions may seem satisfactory on paper, but leadership obtaining active participation of Legatees to implement the decisions is of utmost importance.

Communications with Floor Legatees per medium of personal visits, the Bulletin and in particular Comradeship functions, are most necessary in my opinion.

Finally one word of best advice. In all cases

"DO YOUR OWN HOMEWORK"

Best of luck for a wonderful year.

