

COMMENTS ON PRESIDENTIAL YEAR -- 1982.

I found the remarks of my predecessors and the other data contained herein, invaluable in preparing for particular facets of the Presidential role, and consequently much of what I could relate would be repetition.

The most daunting task was the conduct of funerals which by their nature are usually unexpected, distressing and different in each case. On several occasions I found it more meaningful to the family and the Club, to delegate the oration to a Senior Legatee who was a close friend of the deceased, and also the service segment if the delegate was a Past President.

1982 was a further year of quiet activity; the time for spectacular events is probably past, and our efforts must be consistently directed at completing the task undertaken as Legacy. The question of the Future commanded much attention during the year with the formation of the State Planning Committee representative of all Victorian Clubs.

Whilst the results of this Committee will find their way to the 1983 Federal Conference, I raise the subject here to underline the importance of the Melbourne President maintaining the comradeship and other associations developed over the years with country Clubs, as facilitating discussion and compromise if necessary. The expense and time involved are well worthwhile, apart from being enjoyable and educational. (In expressing the above views I do <sup>now</sup> wish to infer that these visits should have priority over a Melbourne Group function - in fact I believe that in case of a clash the Group has the prior call on the President.)

Administrative costs continued to rise despite efforts to contain them further, and this factor will continue to be a thorn in the Presidential "side". Whilst a pool of workers exists in Legatees, their reluctance to commit themselves to work on a fulltime basis mitigates against their employment. Perhaps we need to consider, in the not distant future, a scheme for payment of Legatees to enable us demand attendance and to suspend their "Legatee" status during this period.

Of concern also is, I believe, the increasing tendency of Branches, and to some degree, Groups, to isolate themselves from "Central" activities, staging their own Comradeship functions in preference to, and sometimes in conflict with, official Club functions, and even not to participate in a Club operation with which they don't enthuse e.g: a specific fund-raising project. Unchecked, this outlook must lead to confusion and disintegration.

Not mentioned in this volume is the precedent established many years ago and brought to my notice during the year, of the formation of a Secret Committee of several Past Presidents to consider and remedy if possible, known problems of individual Legatees, be they personal, financial or otherwise. There were several instances where problems were relieved without embarrassment to the member, but the success of the scheme depends on strict confidentiality by the Committee and the member. The Nominating Committee could well fill this role

The above Committee was available in addition to the "President's Fund"; incidentally, reference to the original objectives of that Fund as stated in letter of 24/2/33 is recommended to avoid misconceptions as to its use which can arise from "folklore".

I found the whole year rewarding emotionally, and made possible only by the warm and unreserved support of all Legatees, and particularly my three Vice-Presidents to whom I made a point of delegating duties whenever possible (a) to help myself and (b) to render their posting more meaningful to them.