



Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons:
<http://hdl.handle.net/2328/27231>

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/0478
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

Title:
Press release - Law reform

Please acknowledge the source as:
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/0478

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

19.9.68.

The Opposition is naturally interested that the Government has been at last disposed to show some interest in law reform and I will consult with my colleagues as to whether we should nominate a member to the proposed Law Reform Committee. However, we do not welcome the decision of the Government with unalloyed joy.

South Australia has previously found that by establishing ad hoc committees of experts concerned with particular areas of reform, very much more was achieved than in those places where a Law Reform Commission to cover all matters of law reform had been set up. Law Reform commissions in some other places have been the means of bogging down law reform in the larger and long-term questions of policy change and so subjects which could be dealt with effectively and simply by specialised committees have been badly delayed. If one examines the matters that have been referred to the Law Reform Committee in New South Wales or even indeed to the Lord Chancellor's Law Reform Commission in England, it is apparent that these places can be the graveyards rather than the birth places of legal reform. It is all too easy to use a Law Reform Committee as a means of passing the buck about law reform rather than that the Government should get on with the job of specific reforms.

It is a matter of sorrow that the Attorney-General has terminated the work of the committee involved in a complete reform of the substance and procedure of criminal law in South Australia pending the appointment of his Law Reform Committee. However, the question is how can we best get the job done and if the Government is determined on this course it may be that while they are in office this is the only way in which we can get anything done. If so, the Opposition would not stand in the way of the work but endeavour to facilitate practical results.