THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

SUMMARY OF AND COMMENTARY UPON THE 1970 REPORT OF
THE RESEARCH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

In 1970 the School experienced eight resignations. Two of those from tenure posts were promotions to Chairs elsewhere (Zubrzycki and Hol), and one, Professor Phillips, was regrettably due to ill health. The remainder were mostly from temporary posts to academic appointments.

On the credit side, the School gained a new Head of Demography (Professor J.C. Caldwell); a distinguished American (Professor Leonard Broom) to a second Chair in Sociology (to be taken up in 1971); a second Professor in Statistics (Professor E.J. Hannan); three Senior Fellows in Philosophy, Law and Statistics; and two Fellows in Economics. With these new appointments and with the greater flexibility permitted in the use of cash reserves for short-run purposes (such as temporary assistance to assist major research projects) the School managed to live to the limit of its budget.

The recruitment programme, particularly with regard to the Department of Economics, suffered a severe and tragic blow at the beginning of 1971 with the deaths of Mr H.P. Brown and Dr Alex Hunter. The loss will be further felt by the appointment of Dr Terrell to a Chair in the School of General Studies, but with the close co-operation now between the economics interests in the SGS and the RSSS, particularly with regard to postgraduate training programmes, his transfer will not mean a complete loss to the interests of this School.

In 1971 recruitment was also checked by the unfortunate but necessary budget cuts to meet the increases in non-academic salaries, but with the necessary savings now in hand we are beginning to move forward again, within the limits proposed by the Vice-Chancellor. In all, we hope to be able to keep to the target of 80 academic posts filled at any one time and a total establishment of 86.

Students enrolled have remained fairly stationary and no considerable increase is proposed. In most areas the quality of the applicant coming forward remains at a high level, reflecting the much greater output of good Honours graduates from universities both here and abroad, and a much more competitive situation with relation to both employment and postgraduate scholarship opportunities. 56 students were enrolled at beginning of the year and 60 in December. Fourteen qualified for the Ph.D. degree during the year.

Research output remained at a high level with 26 books published and some 120 articles published in scholarly journals. Several of the books have received wide international recognition.
The main administrative change during 1970 was the inclusion of students on Faculty, with one student from each Department and Unit, and the inclusion of students in departmental meetings and School committees.

In 1970 there was increasing collaboration in the research work of Departments and Units with other institutions. This was particularly the case in the development of educational research with regard to studies of problems relating to higher education, with Urban Research in its studies of the economics of urban developmental processes with particular reference to Sydney and Melbourne, with the agreement that the Director of the School should accept responsibility for a national population enquiry over the next three years, and with the launching of a major study by the Department of Demography, in close collaboration with Macquarie University, to study family growth and structure in Australia.

Another significant joint project brought to completion in 1970 was the compilation by Miss Mander Jones of a comprehensive guide to manuscripts in Britain relating to the history of Australia and New Zealand. This project has been jointly sponsored by the National Library and the Department of History on behalf of the University and the manuscript is now with the Australian National University Press.

Unresolved questions at the year's end remained the provision of adequate and efficient computer facilities, the need for more efficient organisation with regard to the conduct of major field surveys, and the continuing need to strengthen the empirical research of departments with more adequate support staff. These matters are also emphasized in our planning for the 1973-75 Triennium.

I hope also to reactivate steps in 1971 to fill the Chair and Headship of the Department of Sociology in the belief that the recruitment position in this discipline is now much more propitious than it was on earlier occasions when recruitment efforts failed.

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