REPORT OF THE MASTER

Professor Emeritus Sir Rutherford Robertson, C.M.G., F.R.S., Pres.A.A.

At the end of 1972, the composition of the Governing Body was as follows:

Master:  Sir Rutherford Robertson

Fellows:  Retiring 15 August, 1973: Dr P.A. Arriens, Mr I. Maclean, Mr R.M. McCulloch, Dr A.B. Roy, Mr P.E.M. Standish.

Retiring 15 August 1974: Dr A.R. Crawford, Dr C. Duke, Dr F.E.M. Lilley.

The Master was in residence throughout the year except for a short period in hospital in January. During the year, collaborative work in biochemistry with Dr D. Weiss, F.A.A., of the C.S.I.R.O. and Dr F.L. Bygrave of the Department of Biochemistry, School of General Studies, was continued but at a somewhat reduced rate due to other activities. Sir Rutherford was re-elected President of the Australian Academy of Science and Chairman of the Consultative Committee of the three Australian Academies. He continued as Chairman of Committee for the Queen's Fellowship in Marine Science and was appointed to the Commonwealth's Advisory Committee on Science and Technology. Considerable work was involved in the survey of times given to teaching and allied duties in the School of General Studies. This survey was undertaken at the request of the Vice-Chancellor.

The Chancellor

The Chancellor, Dr H.C. Coombs, F.A.A., has been frequently in the House, staying in the Chancellor's flat during the year.

Members and Residents

At the end of the year total membership stood at about 757 with 87 invited members. Despite considerable publicity for the House in the Reporter and individual invitations to all new staff members, the total membership has not increased during the year. Members of the University are now finding various alternatives for their social and club life.

Though the membership of the House has not increased during the year, the occupancy has been consistently higher than that of 1971. The improvement in occupancy has been due to a deliberate effort to induce academic visitors to Canberra, particularly those attending conferences, to stay at the House. The arrangement with the Centre for Continuing Education has been very satisfactory to both the House and the Centre. The House has also accepted some permanent residents who are associated with institutions other than A.N.U. (e.g. C.S.I.R.O.). The number of post-graduate students in residence reached a maximum of 75 in April, and decreased steadily during the year to about 45 in December. The House continues to provide a friendly and sociable atmosphere for academics and is greatly appreciated by the visitors to the University.
Tariff

Increases in tariffs for both casual and permanent residents have been necessary to keep pace with the increasing costs. The introduction of a bed and breakfast rate for casual visitors was a success and the Governing Body decided to introduce the alternatives of bed and breakfast rates or full board for all residents in 1973.

Visitors

During the year the House had two of the University's Creative Arts Fellows in residence: Mr Stanislaw Ostoj-Kotkowski continued to live in the House for much of the year; and Miss Norma Redpath visited the House on three occasions.

The House was pleased to have many of the distinguished visitors to the University in residence including a high proportion of those listed in this report as Visiting Research Workers or Visitors.

Buildings and Grounds

At the time this report is being prepared considerable alterations are taking place; the area of the old bar (coffee room), together with the adjoining service area, is being altered to provide a bar-bistro area which will increase the flexibility of the House for serving food and drink, with longer meal hours. The Meetings Room in the Eastern Annexe, which is an important part of the House's facilities for small conferences, is being renovated and refurnished. Work on the renovation of the individual rooms and sets of rooms will begin soon.

Library and Record Collection

The library has been in constant use during the year and many new books were acquired either by gift or by purchase. The excellent equipment in the music room, which was greatly improved at the beginning of the year, has provided pleasure to many people who have enjoyed the wide range of music available on the records.

Gifts

During the year the House received, on extended loan, a share of silver, ceramics, glass and antique furniture from the Lyttelton Taylor Collection.

The presentation of the new mural by Leonard French for the Hall was the most notable event of the year. The painting "Regeneration", in brilliant colours of enamel on panels, covers the entire end wall. This gift was made possible by generous donations from a small number of members of the House.
Functions

Commencement Dinner, held early in March, was attended by a large number of members. Guest Nights were held in both second and third terms. About 170 people attended the St Andrew's Day Dinner, which was also a farewell occasion for the Master. The University Consort presented musical programmes at each of these dinners. The occasion of the installation of the Leonard French mural was marked by a dinner to entertain the donors and the artist. In collaboration with 2CA and the ANU Chamber Music Society, the Canberra Wind Group gave a Concert in Hall, which was very well attended and received.

Guest Tables have been arranged three evenings a week during term and twice a week out of term. The opportunities provided for members of the House to dine with casual residents and invited guests have been appreciated.

Residents' Committee

The Residents' Committee was reorganised during the year and did valuable work in conjunction with the Governing Body. Mr Ian Simpson was Chairman until he moved out of the House, and he was succeeded by Mr R. Landrum.

Council Committee

The Committee appointed by Council to look into the role and functions of University House continued its work in the early part of 1972 with some changes in its composition. It consisted of the Master (Chairman), Professor F.C. Courtice, Professor A.N. Hambly, Mr D.M. B-Butt, Dr G. Fox and Mr R.A. Hohnen, O.B.E. The final report of the Committee, which was adopted by the Council in May, recommended that the House continue the policy adopted in 1972, i.e. with an increase in the conferences and casual residents.

PUBLICATIONS

ROBERTSON, R.N. Scientists and Government in Australia. 
Impact of Science on Society, 22, 187-196.