

are.' In short they said it really was a very considerable difficulty to have to work under the supervision of the Chief Justice. Mr. Justice Coldham thought about this for a little while and said "But I work under the supervision of the Chief Justice, he is most critical of my work but I don't get a disability allowance for that." The union rep was not at all fazed by this. He said, "Well if your Honour wants to make an industrial claim we would be prepared to support it with appropriate industrial action," and "We don't know what he's like as a Chief Justice, we just know he'd make a fine Clerk of Works on the Acropolis."

I think perhaps I might be permitted to say that I have always missed the Arbitration Commission. There was endless variety; the industrial situations were invariably hilarious so long as you maintained sufficient distance therefrom, and one had the opportunity for inspections to quite interesting places, although in retrospect I think I could have gone without my interminable inspections of sewerage works. Thanks to those, there is no doubt that I can claim to be the only Judge of the High Court with an intimate knowledge of activated sludge. My knowledge of activated sludge was not entirely gained in the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. If any of you

would, contrary to my advice, travel in the middle East you will find that aeroplanes in that part of the world fly not be reference to a timetable but by reference to some unfathomable principle which on a Friday night translates roughly as "maybe if it is the will of Allah next Tuesday!" In consequence of that principle I spent three nights incarcerated with three American sewerage engineers bent on the introduction of activated sludge to Saudi Arabia. They were lavish in its praise, they thought it was a greater advance than the discovery of penicillin and they talked about it for three days. At the end of the three days my presence was acknowledged. One of the engineers detached himself, came over to me, asked my name, age, a few other personal particulars and my work activities. I told him that I was a Judge of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission with a responsibility for the sewerage workers of the whole of Australia. That impressed him at least sufficiently to call to a colleague and say, "Say, Bud, this here chick's a Judge." Bud replied, "Sure that's interesting. Ask her if she knows anything about newfies." To which came back the answer "She not a goddamn dog Judge she's a goddamn Federal judge, a Federal aberration Judge." As the French say, 'plus ça change.' □

MR. JUSTICE SIMON ISAACS

Mr. Justice Simon Isaacs, a former Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, died at Sydney on 17 June 1987 at the age of 82. He had retired from judicial office on 10 April 1975 having been a Judge of the Supreme Court from 19 October 1964.

Simon Isaacs was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1934 taking silk in 1950. His practice at the bar was in all jurisdictions.

He was an eloquent, learned and forceful trial and appellate advocate. He will be remembered for his fearless integrity. There must be few barristers who were singled out as Simon Isaacs was for special mention by a Prime Minister of the day. In describing Simon Isaacs as a "larrikin lawyer" the Prime Minister perhaps was conferring upon him both faint praise and an unintended accolade. Simon Isaacs would have appreciated the remarks and description.

Prior to his appointment to judicial office Simon Isaacs had a well deserved reputation for providing advice and help particularly to his more junior colleagues.

He was also a man noted for his generosity and particularly so to his juniors. Many enjoyed his hospitality at the annual end of year party being an event noted for its excellence and indeed lavishness.

In 1964 Simon Isaacs was appointed to the Supreme Court. It was merited and well deserved. The offer of the appointment came as a surprise to Simon Isaacs. He was on the eve of his sixtieth birthday. I can fairly say that he possessed an ambition to finish his career as a Judge of the Supreme Court. He was delighted to have the



opportunity of doing so and to serve the community in a judicial capacity.

On the Bench Simon Isaacs was noted for his courtesy, patience, knowledge and learning. He did not cease to be a compassionate and feeling human being. He was a believer in judicial independence and practised it. Simon Isaacs enjoyed judicial life to the full, regretting the need to retire from it in 1975. However his service to the community did not cease. He continued to be associated with community activities including those associated with the rehabilitation of ex-prisoners. At the invitation of the N.S.W. Government Simon Isaacs chaired the N.S.W. Commission into logging at Terrania Creek.

The legal profession, the community has lost a great member. I have lost a personal friend. □

Alan R. Abadee Q.C.