

EDITORIAL

In this edition we complete Roger Doulton's paper, the first part of which was published in our September '88 edition, and we are also grateful to two regular contributors, Nick Stanbury and John Goodwin, for articles on topical subjects.

Elsewhere we publish the address given to the Association on 16th November 1988 by Stephen Paris, an American attorney, on the subject: 'Claims Made: Chaos, Collapse or Cure?.' The answer to his three questions appear to be Yes, Yes and No, but the paper is well worthy of detailed study as this is certainly a subject that will not go away. We also include Dr. Michael Müller-Stüler's thought-provoking paper presented to the 24th February '89 BILA Meeting on "1992 and all that – a personal view from Germany." Michael is an old friend of BILA, having been our Treasurer in the days when he was resident in this country and enjoyed his holidays in the West Country.

The debate on the Government's Green Paper on the reform of the legal profession continues unabated and it is interesting that Professor Maimom Schwarzchild, an American lawyer and recently appointed barrister, quoted in an article in the Daily Telegraph on 31.3.89 'a piece of American folk-wisdom – If it ain't broke, don't fix it.' Lord Hailsham on the other hand stated in the House of Lords debate on the Green Paper that a visit to a solicitor could not be equated with one to "the grocer's shop on the corner of a town like Grantham." Lord Goodman wondered if he had been practising in the same profession as other speakers in the House of Lords debate and could not find anything which was going to cause dramatic change. Lord Donaldson (a former President of BILA) stated that his anxiety for the future was profound and borrowed a phrase from Lord Wilson (the former Prime Minister) when he advised Hugh Scanlon, a former distinguished President of the Engineering Workers Union, to 'Get your tanks off my lawn.' Whatever decision is eventually taken by the Government, this has certainly been an occasion for rhetoric. In the meantime we publish a paper by Mr. C. Thomas Ross, an attorney, giving an American view of the provisions of two of the three Green Papers. This is Mr. Ross' second contribution to the Journal and we are most grateful to him for his support and interest.

The next edition of the Journal will be in September and any contributions or comments from members will be welcome.

DEREK COLE