

BULLETIN NO. 32SEPTEMBER 1973THE INSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT ACT 1973

The new Act received the Royal Assent on 25 July and by now many members will have had a chance to study its provisions. Some of these will come into effect only when the necessary regulations have been made so that it will be a little while before the Act's full impact is felt. To give members ample opportunity of appreciating all facets of the new legislation, during the coming Session we shall devote one of our meetings to the Act. Also we hope to include an informed article on the subject in a subsequent edition of the Bulletin.

No doubt members will be pleased to learn that BILA was consulted on a number of points on the drafting of the Act by the Department of Trade and Industry, commencing with a general submission of the Association's views during the period after the V & G collapse in 1971. During the progress of the Bill through Parliament the Department's Solicitor asked the advice of BILA on some detailed points, especially with regard to those provisions dealing with persons who invite others to enter into contracts of insurance.

BILA will continue to co-operate with the DTI during the preparation of the ensuing regulations.

ANGLO-FRENCH LEGAL SEMINAR

British insurers have had to make elaborate provision for discussions of legal problems in Europe generally and the European Community in general. There have been innumerable official meetings at international level. But can one always be sure that the participants understand one another's legal systems or even their vocabularies? What is the difference between French droit commun and English common law? If a Frenchman speaks of l'auto-assurance is there a danger that the Englishman will think he is talking of automobile insurance when in fact self-insurance is meant? Is it possible that European countries have already