

THE POLICE AND THE PUBLIC IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. D. CHAPPEL AND P. R. WILSON. [Australia: University of Queensland Press. x + 214 pages. A\$3.95].

This book is the result of data obtained in a series of surveys conducted in Australia and New Zealand. The data disclose nothing that is new or unexpected. We are told that the police are held in low regard by the intellectuals, the students and the teenagers. There are no charges of police brutality, which is really not surprising in the absence of violent confrontations between the police and the alienated groups as have happened in America; but rather, a substantial proportion of the "silent majority" are satisfied with the performance and calibre of the police force as a whole.

What are interesting are the authors' analyses of the reasons for the animosity between the police and the students and their suggestions for remedying the situation. One can easily agree with the authors that lack of contact with the police, or contact with members of poor quality, has led to the present unfortunate state of affairs. Added to this is the fact that the police is the enforcing arm of the government who, in the eyes of students, appear to be totally unattuned to change and unsympathetic to the aspirations of the young and of the liberals. The police have therefore inevitably become the most tangible and convenient target for these groups.

The authors have suggested ways for improving relations between the police and the public. Some of these ways include the establishment of police sponsored clubs for teenagers and the recruitment of better-quality members. In Singapore the contact between the police and the teenagers have been improved by sending a substantial number of young national servicemen into police service. However, while such methods acquaint the young men with the difficulties that beset the policeman in his duties, they also confirm the teenagers' suspicions about the qualities of certain members of the police force, and the lack of premium on imaginative thinking.

But while the authors are mindful of the need to improve the public image of the police, they have unfortunately not come out more strongly for a new role for the policeman—that of a social worker. The improvement in crime-fighting techniques, the improved manners of certain policemen, or the improved quality of the policemen as a whole will not be a substitute for a reorientation of the policeman's working philosophy.