

## *Legislative Drafting*

by **V. C. R. A. C. Crabbe**

Page *i*

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

---

I must acknowledge the great debt I owe to a number of people. Sir George Mutlow Patterson, the last Attorney General of the Gold Coast and the first Attorney General of Ghana led me into the intricacies of legal and legislative drafting. He was ably aided by Mr. Alfred Lonsdale - alas, to leave us very early. Then came Mr. Fred Boyce from the Maori Affairs Department of New Zealand. The two of us, Fred and I, together had to shoulder the heavy legislation which the Independence of Ghana entailed.

When Sir Noel Hutton, then First Parliamentary Counsel at Westminster advised the Government of Ghana about the establishment of a Legislative Drafting Branch of the Attorney General's Chambers, he sent to Ghana Mr. Anthony (later Sir Anthony) Stainton, who was also to become First Parliamentary Counsel at Westminster. I worked under him as number two. He was followed by Mr. Francis Bennion. I was number two. After Mr. Bennion came Mr. Namasivayam from Sri Lanka. I later changed places with Mr. Namasivayam, he being number two when I became number one in charge of Legislative Drafting. I had the privilege of working with Mr. Vincent Grogan from the Drafting Office in Dublin. Mr. W. P. J O'Meara, a former President of the Conference on the Uniformity of Legislation in Canada, joined us. So did Mr. John Hearne who drafted the 1922 Irish Constitution.

My training was in very good hands. It was my good fortune to have worked under them and with all of them. I am ever in their debt. Again, I must thank Mr. Francis Bennion for permission to use material from his vast publications.

Throughout my career the works of Elmer Driedger and Reed Dickerson are constant companions. I owe so much to them.

Since November, 1974, I have been associated with the training of Parliamentary Counsel under a Scheme organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The Hon. Mr. Justice Kutlu Fuad, formerly Director of the Legal Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Mr. Jeremy Pope the present Director and Mr. Richard Nzerem, Assistant Director, have been responsible for that, as was Mr. Sagar. It has been a life rich in experience. The debt that I owe them is very great.

I must also acknowledge my indebtedness to my many students. They continue to bring knowledge and experience to my life.

I am very grateful to Mr. Geoff Kolts, former First Parliamentary Counsel to the Federal Australian Government, and to Mr. I. M. Turnbull, the present First Parliamentary Counsel. They made me an 'honorary member' of their Staff, and continue, to this day to send me the Drafting Instructions, issued for the benefit of the members of their staff.

I wish to thank the Attorney General of Canada for permission to use material published by Elmer Driedger and also by the Government of Canada.