



The Brotherhood's representatives at the Tax Summit cut the 'Alison McClelland Tax Cake'. From left are Peter Allen, Helen McVey, Alison McClelland and Peter Hollingworth.

Dear Friends of the Brotherhood

In the last issue I talked about the Tax Summit and the reason why the Brotherhood had become involved in the tax debate in the first place.

As you now know the summit is over and I have been appointed by the Prime Minister as Chairman of a new Independent Tax Monitoring Authority with the task of monitoring the impact of new taxes on low income people. I prefer to look upon this not as an additional demand on an already heavy work load but as a new challenge to serve the people of Australia in an area of great importance to their financial position. Although it will place additional demands on the Brotherhood, I am confident that I can respond to this challenge, given the excellent level of support from my colleagues.

The Brotherhood's work program is being mapped out and we are endeavouring to clarify our objectives as an organisation over the next few years. Our organisational objectives must be flexible enough to allow for the possibility of senior people in the organisation undertaking relevant work for the government and the community. This is a well established practice in business circles and is therefore something that we should be willing to do in welfare as well. Having made constructive suggestions and evaluations of government policy, it is quite proper to respond to the opportunity of extending that advice to the highest levels of decision making.

Before accepting the challenge, I wrote to the Prime Minister, indicating that my acceptance of this new

role must not in any way diminish my or the Brotherhood's role in speaking publicly on behalf of low income people. This was fully accepted by him and so I felt a strong obligation to undertake this needed work of relating the Brotherhood's policy experience to the overall task of reforming the Australian Tax System to the objectives of equity, efficiency and employment generation.

Do please write to me if you have given careful attention to these issues.

+ Peter Hollingworth

Film Launch

'The Brotherhood of St Laurence', a twenty minute documentary film made by Erwin Rado, Keith and Alison Head and Dyranda Prevost, was launched at the Glasshouse Theatre on 8 July.

Over 250 friends of the Brotherhood attended and the film was launched by Phillip Adams.

He spoke of the power of film, and his own interest which began at the Melbourne Film Festival where Erwin Rado was Director for thirty years:

'We must never under-estimate the power of film. We tend to talk of television in terms of contempt and derision, but every now and again it does something extraordinary. A few months ago, a cameraman went to Ethiopia and brought back the first footage of that enormous tragedy. Within minutes of it going to air, there was a wave of horror and disbelief around the western world. And soon there was action from governments and individuals, from religious organisations and from rock singers . . . At its best, television can ignite a global conscience. But it all comes back to film, and perhaps Erwin's film can be a meeting place of strangers for the Brotherhood, by showing us the work of an extraordinary organisation.'

The film is available for loan, free of charge, on 16mm, VHS or U-matic video from the Public Relations Department, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Telephone 419 7055.