

## VISIT OF DR W. KAYE LAMB

In August this year, the Australian Government sponsored the visit of Dr W. Kaye Lamb, formerly Dominion Archivist of the Public Archives of Canada, to act as consultant on the development of a National Archives System.

Dr Lamb's study encompassed a charter for the National Archives to be embodied in legislation, outline plans for a permanent headquarters building in Canberra and for repositories in other regional centres, staffing requirements, and any other matters relevant to an effective National Archives System.

He arrived in Australia, accompanied by Mrs Lamb, on August 18. The first two weeks were spent primarily in looking at the operations of the Commonwealth Archives Office in Canberra.

On Saturday, September 1, he attended a seminar in Canberra on a National Archives System to which were invited a representative group of archivists, scholars, and others interested in the field. The seminar was opened by the Special Minister of State, Senator Don Willesee and the meeting was also addressed by Dr Lamb. Papers were delivered by Mr R. C. Sharman (Assistant State Librarian, State Library of South Australia), Mr J. Shaw (Automatic Data Processing Division, Public Service Board), Professor R. S. Parker (Department of Political Science, Australian National University), and Dr H. J. Radi (Department of History, University of Sydney).

The remainder of his visit, Dr Lamb spent partly in visiting Melbourne, Sydney and Perth and partly in discussions with government departments in Canberra.

As well as studying the operations of the Commonwealth Archives Office in each state visited, Dr Lamb was able to look briefly at the activities of a number of other bodies dealing with archives and manuscripts. These included the National Library of Australia, the Australian War Memorial, the Archives Office of New South Wales, the Mitchell Library, the University of Sydney Archives, the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Reserve Bank, the Battye Library, the Public Record Office of Victoria, the Melbourne University Archives, and the Melbourne Diocesan Commission.

Many users of archives, including both senior academics and research students, took the opportunity of informing Dr Lamb of their views and meetings were held in each of the cities visited.

Dr Lamb left Australia on October 4 and the Government is now studying his recommendations as part of an overall investigation of policy needs for archives.