



New Assistant Under-Secretary

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, recently announced the appointment of Arthur Andrew (above) as Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, replacing Ralph Collins, now Principal Air Negotiator in the Department. Mr. Andrew had been Director General of the Bureau of Asian and Pacific Affairs since 1970. Previously, while he was Canadian Ambassador to Sweden, he represented Canada in the negotiations which culminated in the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the People's Republic of China.

Criminal law reform urged

The Canadian Criminology and Corrections Association (CCCA) has made wide-ranging proposals for the reform of criminal law that include more orderly sentencing, involvement of the public directly in the administration of justice, and consolidation of federal criminal law relating to adults.

The association made its brief, *Toward a New Criminal Law for Canada*, public shortly before meeting the Law Reform Commission of Canada to discuss its proposals. The Canadian Criminology and Corrections Association is a national voluntary body of persons interested in promoting the better administration of criminal justice. It is an affiliate of the Canadian Council on Social Development.

Recommendations

In its brief the CCCA favours retention of the adversary system, while at the same time recommending changes in some procedures under it so as to reduce "the game element" in which the skill of the parties in taking advantage of legal technicalities detracts unduly from the search for truth. (One of the most significant of these changes in procedure being proposed is that there be full disclosure by both prosecution and defence at an early stage prior to the preliminary hearing or trial.)

The CCCA also favours retention of the right of trial by jury, although it would accept the agreement of a specified majority of a jury as sufficient for a verdict.

The association advocates changes in the law and its administration to recognize the value of restitution and compensation by an offender in "restoring the *status quo* by reducing the harm suffered by the victim". Restitution should apply not only to individual criminals but to corporations as well, and should always be related to the offender's ability to pay.

Other recommendations urge that the federal and provincial governments enter into cost-sharing arrangements to help finance diagnostic and treatment facilities for offenders, and that research in the field of criminology be greatly increased.

The brief suggests that efforts to make sentencing more orderly should include: the grouping of offences for sentencing purposes; guides to sentencing in the Criminal Code; and the requirement that courts give written reasons for imposing sentences — reasons which should be made public.

"Next to conviction, the sentence is probably the most crucial step in the criminal justice process. At present, the courts are given little assistance or guidance in carrying out this heavy responsibility," the brief states.

Involvement of the public
Efforts to involve members of the public directly in administering justice would include the use of specially qualified lay assessors to assist a judge or magistrate with sentencing, and, in more serious cases where there is no jury, with the verdict as well.

The public would also be involved

through participation in citizen advisory committees to courts and, as in the past, jury duty.

The advisory committees could help the courts press for services they need and would have a role to play in carrying out sentences of the court. They would also help build an informed public by giving people a chance to observe first-hand the operation of criminal justice.

Such involvement of the public demands an active program of information about the criminal justice system, the CCCA says. Simplification of laws and procedures would follow. "There is no good reason why criminal law cannot be written in simple, clear language understandable to the average citizen."

Bringing all federal adult criminal legislation into a single act containing a criminal code, a code of criminal procedure and a corrections guide would help people become more knowledgeable about the criminal justice system, says the CCCA. Public opinion as to the relative seriousness of the various offences set out in the Criminal Code should be scientifically determined and seriously taken into account when legislation is being framed or amended.

Pickering hydro station leads the way

Ontario Hydro's generating station at Pickering set the pace for the world's nuclear power plants in 1973.

The 2,000-megawatt station supplied 14,278,610 megawatt hours of electricity to the provincial grid. During the 12 months four Candu units achieved net capacity factors of 93 per cent, 70 per cent, 86 per cent and 90 per cent, respectively. The value of the power is estimated at \$87,695,985.

The nearest nuclear competitors to Pickering in electricity output in 1973 were the Dresden (1,888 megawatts) and Quad Cities (1,664 megawatts) plants in the United States, both of which supplied about 10 million megawatt hours.

Ontario Hydro would have had to burn about 5 million tons of coal to produce the power turned out by Pickering last year.

The gross energy produced from Pickering since startup would be equivalent to burning about 8.3 million tons of coal.