

Notes

CHAPTER SIX

- (1) In British Columbia, an effort was made to expand community service to provide direct service to the victim. Investigation revealed, however, that the large majority of citizens did not want victim assistance through direct service by offenders: Darryl Plecas and John Winterdyk, "Community Service: Some Questions and Answers", *Provincial Judges Journal*, March 1982, p. 11-12 and 19.
- (2) Law Reform Commission of Canada brief, pp. 16-18.
- (3) Correctional Service of Canada, *Third Report of the Strategic Planning Committee*, Solicitor General Canada, 1983; Solicitor General Canada, *Solicitor General, Annual Report, 1986-87*, Ministry of Supply and Services, Ottawa, 1988, p. 60.
- (4) J.P. Brodeur and A.N. Doob, "Rehabilitating the debate on rehabilitation", forthcoming.

Earlier in this report, there was a discussion of the over-reaction of voters to crime by the public and the likelihood of retribution for violent offenders. The fear of criminal violence has become heightened in recent years. While the Committee considers that the perception of the seriousness of violent crime is not reflected in reality, it does believe that the fear is real and must be addressed by all levels of the criminal justice system.

The Committee attributes much of the public impatience with crime to media reports which sensationalize violent cases and which often deal with multiple offences in a limited time or space. Moreover, the Committee recognizes that in recent years there has been increased reporting to police of certain offences (e.g., sexual assault) as well as changes in criminal justice record-keeping practices, both of which have also contributed to the perception of increasing violence.

Nevertheless, there has been a number of serious cases in recent years where offenders on conditional release who had been previously convicted of non-violent offences subsequently took another life. While these incidents are few in number, they are dramatic, and it is not surprising that they have contributed to public fear and a lack of confidence in the sentencing, treatment and supervision systems.

3. Public Mistrust of the Criminal Justice System

The four Howard Society of Canada members that are members of the Task Force on Public Trust in our Criminal Justice System believe that public mistrust is based on a number of factors. In their view, each component of the criminal justice system (e.g., police, judiciary, personnel, etc.), operating within its own