

*continued from page two*

self, and if they don't think it's sufficient they can and do charge you with vagrancy. So many of our young people travel these days, and the commission recommended a network of hotels for girls. The boys already have them. We did not think brothels should be licensed. They are degrading to women, ruinous to their health, and usually lead to complete degradation. Incidentally, there are male as well as female prostitutes.

**Why was there no mention of lesbians in the report, a group of women who face tremendous discrimination at all levels in the U.S.?**

While the commission was being set up, the Canadian federal government amended the criminal code so that homosexuality is no longer illegal between consenting adults. We heard no briefs from people concerning lesbians.

**What is the status of abortion in Canada?**

The Canadian Criminal Code was changed in 1969 to allow a qualified medical practitioner in an approved hospital to procure a miscarriage if a majority of the hospital's therapeutic abortion committee certifies in writing that the pregnancy would endanger the life or health of the woman.

This change made little or no difference to women. Illegal abortions continue. Thousands of women still submit to the ministrations of the back street butcher. If a woman is rich she can go to New York, England, or Scandanavia and have a legal abortion. A poor woman has no choice. The commission has recommended that

the criminal code be amended to permit abortion by a qualified practitioner on the sole request of any woman who has been pregnant for 12 weeks or less. No law is a good law which is broken constantly, and the abortion laws are broken constantly.

**What recommendation upset people the most?**

The recommendation that "in certain areas women will for an interim period require special treatment to overcome the adverse effects of discriminatory practices." We felt that once the degree of discrimination against women and its adverse effects on society are understood, this recommendation will be seen for what it is — a positive effort to remove discrimination in the shortest possible time. When women are actually equal such a measure will be unnecessary.

**Why did the report avoid such words as chauvinism, oppression, exploitation, and self-determination — words currently in use in the women's liberation movement?**

We wanted this report to be acceptable to policy makers. We deliberately took a cool, calm, unemotional approach.

**Has any action been taken by the Federal Government on the recommendations?**

The report was tabled in the House of Commons on December 7, and the Government is still studying it. The commission is publishing ten supplementary studies. We are confident that the report will have a profound effect on our whole society.

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