

proposes that in order that a man may be tried as an habitual criminal there must be the consent of the attorney general of the provinces. I do not think I favour this particular section, because it tends to produce different practices in different provinces. In order that there may be uniform practice, I think the consent should be obtained from the commissioner of penitentiaries rather than from the attorney general of the province. After all, the commissioner of penitentiaries has the record of the particular prisoner. His consent should be obtained rather than that of the attorney general of the province, because it is my opinion that this will produce more uniformity of practice in this connection. The last subsection of section 18 states that the minister shall review the cases every three years. An amendment might be put in here stating that the minister ought to act upon the recommendation of the commissioner of penitentiaries.

As I mentioned in the opening sentences of my short remarks, the state of mind of an habitual criminal is somewhat equal to a defective mind, and I hope that the minister will soon see to it that one of the assistant commissioners to be appointed is an expert along that line, an alienist, as I mentioned yesterday. If that is done, then I think we might be more successful in working out the amendments now before the house and they will be of real benefit in connection with our whole criminal administration.

Mr. H. C. GREEN (Vancouver South): There is one question I should like to place before the minister and the house, namely, the alarming increase in Canada in moral offences against children. I believe that that increase has taken place in all of the provinces; certainly it is so in my own province of British Columbia.

I have had different petitions requesting that some action be taken at this session to amend the criminal code to meet this situation. For example, one petition was signed by a large number of people from one of the junior high school parent-teacher associations, in the city of Vancouver, urging that the criminal code be so amended as to deal adequately with moral offences against children, regardless of which section of the criminal code these charges come under. I have had further representations from another parent-teacher association containing a resolution passed by the provincial convention of parent-teacher associations. At that convention there would be representatives of parent-

teacher associations from all over the province, and this is the suggestion made by such provincial convention:

Resolved (1) that representations be made to the federal government recommending that necessary legislation be enacted to provide for sentencing offenders against public morals where those offences are due to a psychopathic condition, to preventive treatment and detention in a separate institution provided for that purpose.

(2) That representations be made to the government of the province of British Columbia recommending that all sex offenders (offenders against public morals) have medical and psychiatric examination before being sentenced in order to obtain, before disposition, an understanding of the personalities of the offenders.

(3) That in view of the many protests concerning the number of light sentences imposed on moral degenerates, we make (a) representations to the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General that adequate psychiatric treatment be provided for such offenders and (b) to the Minister of Justice that adequate provision be made in the criminal code for retaining in custody these offenders until the treatment of the prisoner has proven sufficiently satisfactory that he may be safely returned to society.

Apparently under the present law many of the people committing criminal acts of this kind are sentenced, serve their time, are turned loose and commit the same crimes again. That happens time after time. Certainly something must be done to meet the situation. Just this week I received a Vancouver paper reporting an attack on two small girls. The father of one of the girls summed it up very well, I think, when he said:

"I don't know. It's got me beaten," the eleven-year-old's father said this morning. "This sort of thing seems to be getting worse all the time and something has got to be done about it. But what I don't know."

I had hoped that there would be some amendment this year, but I can find nothing in the bill as presented to the house that meets the situation. There is some change in section 260 of the code, but that does not really meet the situation to which I have referred. I hope that when the minister speaks he will explain why it is that the government is not making a move at this time to cope with this very serious condition.

Mr. RODNEY ADAMSON (York West): I notice in this bill reference to motor car accidents, and penalties against drivers have been in many instances considerably increased. I have no objection to that at all if it will decrease the tragic number of highway accidents all across the country every year.

The question that I wish to raise at the moment is this. It has been found in the United Kingdom and in other countries that increasing the penalties for infractions of the various highway acts, and increasing the penal-