

the offence and previous history of the offender. The Act will not, however, force diversion on the offender, nor will it prevent any person from swearing any information against a young person.

The Young Offenders Act sets out a precisely defined range of dispositions available to the youth court judge, among which are the performance of community service orders, compensation and restitution, the payment of fines, probation supervision in the community, and open and closed custody for a maximum period of up to three years. Committal to custody

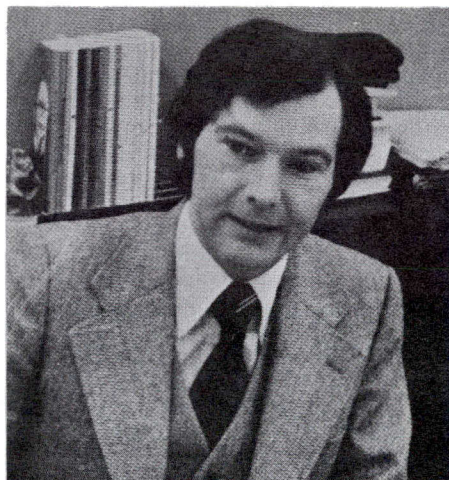
would be for a *fixed* period of time (not *indefinite* as it is at present). A provision is proposed for periodic reviews of young custodians in order to confirm the original disposition or reduce the level of custody.

Other proposals in the Act deal with transfers of young offenders to adult court, the rights of young persons to legal representation, and the detention of young persons prior to a court disposition.

(From the March '77 issue of *Liaison*, a publication of the Ministry of the Solicitor General.)

Tom Sterritt, a policy analyst of the Policy Planning and Program Evaluation Branch of the Minister of the Solicitor General, who has been involved in developing the new Young Offenders Act, commented as follows on its intent:

"The proposed legislation has discarded the philosophy that young persons who commit offences are basically misdirected; instead we've gone to one based on a model of 'responsibility.' Kids are going to be responsible for illegal actions on an offence basis. I don't think the Act ignores that kids who commit crimes also have particular needs. We hope to continue to assess the needs of kids and offer them legitimate services through a variety of resources and facilities."



*The proposed legislation assumes that kids are "responsible" for their illegal actions - Tom Sterritt.*

### Quebec/Manitoba French-language exchange program

At the conclusion of a meeting held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on April 15, Premier Edward Schreyer of Manitoba, and Claude Morin, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs of Quebec, announced their intention to continue to intensify certain projects in French education and culture at the primary, secondary and post-secondary levels of education.

Exchanges of technical and human resources between the two provinces will include: exchanges of educational personnel (e.g. school trustees, principals, teachers and students); exchanges of educational material; pairing of school divisions or schools; exchanges of university resources at the research as well as academic levels;

and exchanges for the purposes of teacher training.

The premier and the minister agreed to foster co-operative efforts between Manitoba and Quebec in the area of French culture as well, and this may lead to: exchanges of artists; a more systematic method for disseminating publications and tape recordings and computer programs in both provinces; and other cultural exchanges of this nature.

Mr. Schreyer and Mr. Morin also announced that one representative from each province would co-ordinate these proposed projects and study the possibility of concluding a more formal agreement between Quebec and Manitoba.

### Contribution to UN drug-abuse control

Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde has announced a \$200,000-contribution to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

This is a voluntary fund established in 1971 to support international projects relating to the abuse of drugs. Fifty-six countries have contributed to the fund. Previous contributions from Canada total \$1 million.

The fund supports activities to control the supply of illicit drugs and to reduce the demand for drugs. Major achievements have included: increased emphasis on drug-abuse control by United Nations agencies and in developing countries; increased co-ordination of international activities; more rapid spread of knowledge and technology concerned with control of supplies and reduction of demand; significant success in control of trafficking and provision of treatment in developing countries.

### Canadian vets to Caribbean

Canada is sending two veterinarians and two laboratory technicians to the Leewards and Windwards Isles in the Caribbean to help improve the health of livestock there, Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson, announced recently.

The Canadian International Development Agency is providing \$520,000 in grant funds to pay salaries and related expenses of the team for three years.

The United Nations Development Program, Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization are also participating in the program to upgrade veterinary services in the islands.

Most of the islands have adopted policies to expand livestock industries to reduce imports.

The Canadian team will help train their counterparts on the islands in identification, control and prevention of animal diseases. Project leader is Dr. Richard J. Julian, of Guelph, Ontario, who left for Antigua on March 27. He will be joined by lab technicians Joan Dixon of Vancouver, British Columbia, and Margaret C. Bolton of Surrey, B.C. A second veterinarian will join the team later.