St. Vincent de Paul Children's Aid Society
of Toronto

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TORONTO 5, May 15th, 1933.

The Right Honourable Arthur Meighen, P.C.,
The Senate,
OTTAWA.

Re: Rex vs. Vahey.

Dear Mr. Meighen:

You will recall the conversation the writer had with you some weeks ago with respect to the amendment to section 215, of The Criminal Code, being sponsored by the Minister of Justice. At the time you stated that if the amendment met with the approval of the Minister of Justice it would have your approval. It was thought that when the amendment passed the House of Commons, there would be little difficulty in its passing the Senate. Unfortunately, there was not a proper statement made to the Members of the Senate acquainting them with the difficulty which had been experienced in impressing on the Members of the Supreme Court of Ontario in the criminal case of Rex vs. Vahey how impossible it is to secure a conviction. In each case it is necessary to bring home to the child actual knowledge and understanding. The plain fact is that a child of tender years may not give evidence in Court and how it is hoped to establish that a child of tender years has a true knowledge of what has transpired where