

- (2) the lack of comprehensive information about the character and background of the offender; and
- (3) the lack of information about the reasons for imposing certain sentences.

The report urged the federal government to prepare (in conjunction with the provinces) and issue a guide to dispositions, which would be made available to all in the correctional system and which would contain the information identified above as then lacking. The Committee recommended that fines only be imposed after a means study of the offender had been done; that, except for murder, minimum sentences of imprisonment be repealed; and that whenever there was to be a sentence of imprisonment, it be preceded by a pre-disposition report on the offender and accompanied by a statement of the reasons for such imprisonment.

#### **B. Hugessen Report**

Established in June 1972 by the Solicitor General of Canada, the Task Force on the Release of Inmates, under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Mr. Justice James K. Hugessen, released its report in November 1972. While the focus of the report was on the release of inmates, it contained an Appendix which described "A Proposal for Statutorily Fixed Sentences". The main recommendation was the abolition of fixed-term sentencing to penitentiaries and the adoption of statutorily fixed maximum sentences (for sentences of two years or more) with no discretion in the sentencing court to fix minimum terms.

Under these proposals, a judge would have three sentencing options after conviction of an offender:

- ° non-custodial sanctions (including semi-custodial sanctions such as probation and residency at a halfway house);
- ° short-term determinate custodial sentences of less than two years to be fixed by the court; or
- ° penitentiary sentences, the maximum length of which would be statutorily determined (three, five or ten years, or life).