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and thirteen-year-old range — in that perception changing experiences may upset the maturing process.

Changing the law, it has been argued, may upset the public's perception of the law and may be misinterpreted as meaning cannabis is not to be treated seriously at all. The Commissioners said:

"Within certain limits we do not believe that a change in the law need have an adverse effect on a proper appreciation of the caution with which we believe cannabis should be treated. To begin with, the present legal characterization of cannabis is simply not believed. People are not misled by the inclusion of cannabis in the Narcotic Control Act into believing that its effects are as harmful as those of heroin. The thoroughly mistaken nature of this characterization is now well and generally understood."

The majority of the Commission made nine recommendations for changes in the law, including repealing the prohibition against simple possession of cannabis. Trafficking or possession for the purpose of trafficking would still be against the law, but penalties would be lower — a maximum term of five years, or eighteen months upon summary conviction. Trafficking would not include giving enough dope to use on a single occasion. If charged with possession with the intent of selling, the accused would only have to raise a reasonable doubt — not prove that he or she was not going to sell it.

Growing cannabis for one's personal use would be legal, but the police would have the power to seize cannabis wherever they found it, legal or not.

Two Commissioners dissented from this majority position.

Ian L. Campbell felt possession should remain a crime. "It seems to me to be an unassailable proposition that the majority may properly prohibit through the law conduct that is manifestly offensive or disturbing to them whether or not that conduct inflicts an injury on any particular person beyond the actor," he said.

Marie-Andrée Bertrand argued for complete legalization, including government controlled standardization and marketing of marijuana similar to alcohol controls. "The probable consequences of legalization (including the possibility of more people using it) seem to me to be less harmful than the evils of prohibition, which, among other things, put 1.5 million Canadians outside the law," she said.

Copies of the reports are available from Information Canada, 171 Slater Street, Ottawa.

1. *Interim Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs.* 335 pages. \$2.00.
2. *Treatment. A Report of the Commission into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs.* 125 pages. \$1.75.
3. *Cannabis. A Report of the Commission into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs.* 426 pages. \$3.00.

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