

can indicate that the sentence will be served intermittently (at night, for instance, or on weekends) so that the prisoner continues to earn a living and supports his family. For the same reasons, professional drivers may be allowed to keep their licences for work, even though they have been suspended.

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Maximum prison sentences are increased from two to ten years for obstructing justice by influencing the outcome of trials, and from two to five years in cases of obstructing police officers, assaulting policemen and inflicting bodily harm on them. In the latter three instances, this charge is also made more flexible so that in less serious cases the maximum penalties could be a fine of \$500 or six months in jail or both. This clause could be applied to civil disobedience such as sit-ins etc., and to violence such as arose from the recent "rock" concert in Vancouver.

FALSE DEATH REPORTS

The maximum penalty for ringing a fire-alarm is increased two years, and persons causing investigations by falsely reporting their own or the death of anyone else may be sentenced to five years.

It is now as illegal to make or possess slugs for fraudulently operating coin-operated vending machines, as it is already to use such slugs. Non-residents disturbing the peace by discharging guns and indulging in other forms of disorderly conduct in public areas of apartment buildings are as liable as if they disturbed the peace of the occupants of a house. The breathalyzer law will be applied to boat-operators as well as to drivers on highways.

Another amendment allows remands of up to 30 days for mental observation where circumstances warrant, and up to 60 days where medical evidence indicates the necessity. This change also comes from the Canadian Committee Report on Corrections. The old maximum was 30 days, with supporting medical evidence.

In numerous parts of the Criminal Code dealing with jurisdiction, penalties and the value of property involved in offences, \$50 was the key figure. Before 1933 the amount was \$10; in May 1933 it was increased to \$25 and in 1954 to \$50. In 1970 a bill was introduced in the Senate to increase the amount to \$200 but it died on the House order papers. C-24 raises \$50 to \$200 in the respective sections, in line with the changing value of the dollar.

HIJACKING OFFENCES

Bill C-2 specifies new offences. Aircraft hijackers will receive a maximum sentence of life imprisonment; carriers of explosives or offensive weapons on civil aircraft without permission may receive a maximum sentence of 14 years; those who endanger an aircraft in flight or render it incapable of flight can

be sentenced to life. Furthermore, anyone committing any offence as defined by the Criminal Code aboard an aircraft in flight can be tried in Canada if the plane is Canadian-owned or if the alleged offender is captured in Canada.

These clauses of Bill C-2 will permit Canada to ratify the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft signed at the Hague on December 16, 1970, and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aircraft signed at Montreal on September 23, 1971. These instruments also contain provisions for extradition.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE EXCLUDED

In line with a private Member's bill, attempted suicide is removed from the Criminal Code and recognized as a medical problem. Vagrancy is no longer an offence; the subsection of the vagrancy section dealing with prostitutes is replaced by a section dealing with soliciting in a public place for prostitution and applies to both men and women. The vagrancy section as it existed before is considered too vague to be upheld.

OFF-TRACK BETTING BILL

Before the House of Commons prorogued for the summer, Justice Minister Otto Lang introduced a bill to permit off-track *pari mutuel* (or mutual stake) betting under provincial authority and federal supervision.

Off-track betting establishments will be permitted to operate only under the authority of a licence issued by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council of the province in which the betting is to take place or by some other authority in the province designated by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council for the purpose.

While it may be possible in one province to bet on horse races that are being run in another province, the proposed legislation will not permit betting on races run outside Canada. However, interprovincial wagering might be prohibited either by the terms of the provincial licence or by regulation made by the Governor-in-Council.

Parti mutuel betting off the racetrack is at present supervised by the Federal Government and, while it is intended that off-track betting shall also be supervised by the Federal Government, the provincial governments will be interested in ensuring that off-track betting establishments comply with the terms and conditions of their licences. Consultations with provincial authorities to date have shown that the main interest in off-track betting emanates, for the most part, from Ontario and Quebec.

Representations from interested parties on the proposed legislation Mr. Lang stated, would be welcomed by the Department of Justice.