

being brought to trial. The report recommends that if an indictable offence case has not gone to court within one year (or, in the case of summary conviction offences, 180 days), the accused should be permitted to apply for a discharge. The report notes that "because of the possibility of (the judge) extending the time periods, discharges in cases of delay may be rare, but the power to discharge would not only be a judicial weapon against injustice, but also a spur to uproot the causes of delay in the criminal justice system".

The Commission plans to have a second part of the Criminal Procedure recommendations, dealing with pre-trial Discovery, ready for tabling by the Minister of Justice in the near future. In the meantime, the Commission recommends that "legislation in conformity with the proposed draft be enacted by Parliament, without delay, as the first step towards a general reform and overhaul of criminal procedures".

"The present system operates at full blast and yet it creaks ominously because it is tied to anachronisms which weight it heavily and dissipate its thrust."

Mr. Hockey 50 years old and still going strong

Gordie Howe, "Mr. Hockey", celebrated his fiftieth birthday two days early on March 29, then played a game with his team mates, the New England Whalers. Only two of them were born in 1946, Howe's first year in major league hockey.

Howe, who expects to become a grandfather next month, adds to his list of records every time he plays: he has the most seasons (30); the most games (2,252); scored the most goals (1,028); the most assists (1,457); the most points (2,483); been given the most penalty minutes (2,297); has the most years in playoffs (23); and has been given the most most-valuable-player awards (7).

Gordie Howe is already talking about playing next season. His sons Mark (22) and Marty (24) also play for the Whalers. "I don't feel 50 years old," he said "...it scares me, I should hurt more after a game these days than I do." Only team mates John McKenzie (41), Dave Keon (38) and Al Smith (33) were alive when Howe scored his first goal in 1946, playing his first game for the Detroit Red Wings of the National Hockey League.

Indexation changes in public service pension plan

The Government proposes to introduce a number of changes to the indexing arrangements applicable to the public service employee-pension program. The proposals concern the indexation of pensions payable under all Federal Government superannuation legislation including the Public Service, Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police personnel, Members of Parliament, and other federal superannuation acts.

Under the proposals indexation will be deferred until age 60, although this will be phased in over the next five years and will not affect those retiring in 1978. Nor will it affect widows' and childrens' allowances or disability pensions, (i.e. for an employee reaching age 55 and retiring in 1979, indexation will be deferred to age 56; for a similar situation in 1980, indexation will be deferred to age 57, etc.) In all cases, however, when the required age is reached, indexation will be cumulative from date of retirement, although retroactive payments will not be made.

Beginning in 1979, indexation for first

year following date of retirement, will be pro-rated on the basis of the number of complete months between date of retirement and December 31 of the same year. Indexation on January 1, 1979 will be based on six-twelfths of the amount otherwise indicated. Thus, there will be no indexation on January 1, 1979 for those retiring in December 1978.

The amount of indexation payable will be determined on the basis of available funds, including the pensioner's share of indexation account and the pensioner's share of excess interest (in excess of 4 per cent) credited to the main pension account.

The situation will be reviewed in October 1978 and funds to be available for next three years will be estimated by a chief actuary. If such funds indicate that less than full indexing is possible, the present formula based directly on the consumer price index will be modified, although CPI will still be taken into account. If funds available permit, there will still be full indexing.

The pre-game celebration on March 29 included a huge birthday cake and tributes on the ice from many of Howe's old friends. Sid Abel and Tommy Ivan, old

Detroit colleagues were there, as well as baseball veteran Al Kaline, tennis champion Tony Trabert and track star Jesse Owens.



Gordie Howe, with his two sons Mark (left) and Marty rest, after a practice game before the 1974 Canada/U.S.S.R. hockey series.