

The Law Reform Commission also recognized this problem in its Working Paper on Imprisonment and Release:

...it is difficult to describe with accuracy the class of persons who should be designated as dangerous sexual offenders. Vague and imprecise laws spread their nets too widely. As a result persons are brought within their provisions who probably should not be.¹²

C. THE ABUSES

As might be expected, given the difficulty in determining dangerousness, the vague language and the limited provisions in existing legislation for assessing potential 'dangerous sexual offenders', there have been many persons who have been wrongly placed in this category.

After studying the case records of 17 'dangerous sexual offenders' incarcerated in penitentiaries in Ontario in 1971, Professor Cyril Greenland of the School of Social Work, McMaster University, concludes:

It appears...that only about three of the seventeen had been dangerous in the sense of seriously threatening the life or safety of others. The other men were apparently