

The Commission report recommends that children and young persons of either sex be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation by adults with whom they are in a dependency relationship. "The new formulation would thereby retain the protection now accorded to the young by Section 150 [of the Criminal Code - incest]. Indeed it would widen the family circle beyond the present provision so as to bring the brothers and sisters of a parent under its ban, since these persons are frequently in a position to exploit young people", the report states. In all such cases the Commission recommends that the relationship of authority and dependency be presumed in fact and in law.

Controversial recommendation held

"The judicial record is mostly silent on prosecutions for incest between persons over the age of majority", the report notes and holds to an earlier recommendation that incest between consenting adults should no longer qualify as an offence. That recommendation, issued in a working paper last June, brought forth widespread expressions of concern including a petition containing 300 signatures.

"The Commission continues to believe that incest between consenting adults ought no longer to fall within the purview of criminal justice," the report states and adds, "Incest should above all be a matter of social and psychological treatment; secondly, a matter of regulation by family and child welfare law, and only thirdly, a matter for the criminal law."

After providing specific protection for children and special groups, the Commission recommends that between adults and "in the absence of any exploitation of authority or dependency, incestuous behaviour ought not to be treated and punished as a criminal act".

Regarding the present Criminal Code provisions about buggery and acts of gross indecency, including the provision which excuses consenting adults in private, the Commission recommends their repeal because they fall within the scope of two other sets of recommendations. Those provisions are taken into account in the two newly proposed sections about sexual interference and sexual aggression; and they must keep the element of privacy because of the Commission's recommendation to retain the prohibition against indecent acts in a public place, or

anywhere with an intent to insult anyone.

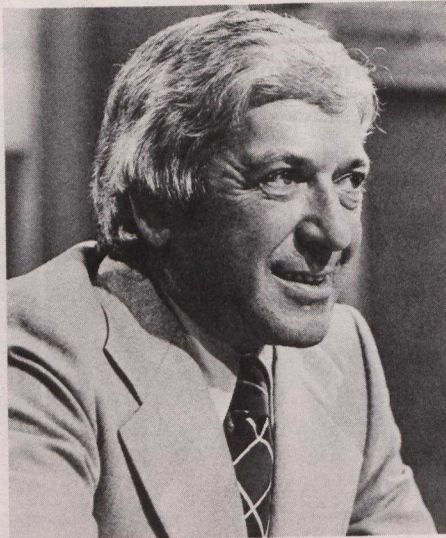
This report, the tenth issued by the Commission since its first in 1975, specifies how the Criminal Code can be amended to provide maximum protection to all individuals, and to safeguard public decency, with special additional protection for the young and mentally handicapped. If implemented, the recommendations would update a Criminal Code which, in the words of the report, "is a compilation of disparate sections which do not reflect consistent views of the problem of sexual offences" and uses "outmoded and archaic" language.

"There can be no doubt that social attitudes in matters of sexual behaviour have obviously drastically changed since the promulgation of the Criminal Code," states the Commission.

Canadian honoured by UNESCO

The Kalinga Prize, the highest international honour awarded for the popularization of science, has been given for the first time to a Canadian.

Fernand Seguin, biochemist and journalist, of Montreal, joins such other international celebrities as Jean Rostand, Bertrand Russell, Margaret Mead, Konrad



Fernand Seguin

Lorenz and Louis de Broglie, also recipients of the prize created in 1952 and given by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It was presented to him during UNESCO's general assembly in November.

Dr. Seguin is well known as a science news reporter in Quebec. He inspired many young people to enter science

careers in the early days of television. Since 1947, he has created and hosted about 400 radio programs and almost as many television programs, most of which have been broadcast on Radio-Canada.

Dr. Seguin, extremely moved by the honour, said that his own career would never have been possible if the French network of the CBC had not agreed to give importance to science news and information.

He also hoped that the awarding of this prize would revive interest among television broadcasters in science and technology, two areas of a profound influence on everyday life but which, he said, were treated by newsmen as "poor relations".

From teaching to television

Fernand Seguin, once a university professor, became involved in popularizing science on radio and television in 1954.

In 1964-65 he acted as scientific consultant to the agency responsible for setting up Expo '67. His job was to design the science pavilions. In 1974 he was appointed a member of the Science Council of Canada, on which he served until 1976. He was appointed to the board of directors of the Montreal Cancer Institute in 1976 and he still serves on the board.

In 1977 he was appointed a member of the Council of Universities (Quebec). He won the Olivar-Asselin prize awarded by the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Society for his work as a scientific journalist.

Dr. Seguin is currently the host of a science information program entitled *La Science et Vous*, which is heard weekly on CBC radio. He also works with the scientific magazine *Science-Réalité*, for which he is preparing ten portraits of Quebec scientists on CBC television, and he is producing a film on the brain for the National Film Board.

Governor-General Jules Léger gave a dinner for Dr. Seguin at Rideau Hall on December 8, at which Chairman Napoléon Leblanc of UNESCO's general assembly attended as representative of the Organization's Director-General. During the evening, Mr. Léger presented to Dr. Seguin his insignia of Officer of the Order of Canada, to which he was appointed last July.

Canadians rank third in the world in the consumption of mushrooms. The Scandinavian countries are first, followed by France.