

Mr. McMurtry does not believe the available evidence concerning alcohol related deaths by young drivers is sufficiently persuasive to warrant raising the legal age to 21 years. At this particular time he believes the emphasis of his efforts on this issue be on the societal attitudes toward drinking and driving.

Enclosed was an eight page copy of a statement made by The Honourable Roy McMurtry, on a discussion paper from the Premier's Interministry Task Force on Drinking and Driving, September 1, 1983.

**Resolution 5. Re — Seat belt buckle release system.**

This resolution was sent to the Minister of Transport, The Honourable Don Mazankowski.

The reply to this Resolution came from Mr. Doug Eyford, Special Assistant, at the request of the Minister of Transport Mr. Mazankowski. He stated that our Resolution was to be commended and its merit is certainly recognized. At the present time there are basically two types of seat buckle release systems commonly installed in automobiles sold in North America. The standard push button in the majority of new cars is located at the side of the buckle which is attached to a flexible stalk that connects to the floor anchorage. Those with a push button on the top or the back of a fixed receptacle are common in a number of imported cars from Europe and Japan. A few older systems use a lever-operated device. All of these systems meet mandatory requirements for strength and release pressure as set down in the Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. The standards mandate a push button release action, although they purposely do not restrict the design of the release mechanism in order to encourage automobile manufacturers to develop more convenient and improved seat belt systems, which suit particular seat construction in different models. While a standardized buckle release would be easier to handle for occupants who are not familiar with a particular installation, this, however, could limit the development of improved seat belt systems and in some cases would also be less convenient. Studies recently concluded by Transport Canada safety engineers show that these systems work well and have not been a contributory factor in accidents, in-

cluding those in which vehicles were inverted. The federal government will continue to closely monitor this important area of transportation safety.

**Resolution 6. Re — Alcohol use among adolescents and the need for more effective controls on alcohol availability.**

This resolution was forwarded to the Minister of Education, The Honourable Bette Stephenson, M.D.; the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada, The Honourable Michel Cote; the Minister of Health, The Honourable Keith C. Norton and the Minister of National Health and Welfare, The Honourable Jake Epp.

Replies have been received from each Ministry.

The Honourable Keith C. Norton, the current Minister of Education, has replied for his predecessor, The Honourable Bette Stephenson, M.D. Mr. Norton shares the concern of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario about youthful alcohol abuse. Concern for the incidence of alcohol and drug abuse has resulted in an increased emphasis on drug education in the ministry's guidelines for school curriculum and programs. The ministry has also co-operated with the Addiction Research Foundation and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to stimulate and provide support to effective programs in education about alcohol and other drugs.

Mr. Michel Cote, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, replied that the Resolution did not fall within the mandate of his department. Responsibility for safeguarding the health of our young does fall within the Ontario Ministry of Health, the Ontario Ministry of Education and Health and Welfare Canada. However, Mr. Cote did wish us success in this worthwhile endeavour.

In his reply as Minister of Health, Mr. Norton stated that his ministry and the Ministry of Education have collaborated on the production of an alcohol education kit for use in grades 7 and 8. Additionally, a travelling theatre show called Health Spell is performed in schools. The purpose of the show is to provide students with information regarding smoking, alcohol and other lifestyle concerns.

The Addiction Research Foundation is funded by the Ministry of Health and has just produced a video

tape with accompanying teaching materials which is now being used in the schools. Entitled, Me and My Friends and Booze, the program is directed at the 13 to 18 year-old age group. Two video presentations targetted at 8 to 12 year-olds are now being tested and will likely be available in schools by April of this year.

The Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Epp shares our concern with regard to the serious problems which are being experienced due to the excessive use of alcohol among young people. His Department, through its national media campaign (Dialogue on Drinking), has focussed on the reduction of excessive alcohol use among people in the 15-29 age bracket. Drinking and driving is a major theme of this campaign. Mr. Epp further stated that he thinks it important that there be no further relaxation of alcohol control regulations which might further increase alcohol availability. Much of the authority to regulate the control of beverage alcohol lies within provincial jurisdiction. With this in mind, we are considering efforts to gain co-operation of our provincial counterparts in reviewing the feasibility of introducing control measures that might, to some extent at least, curb excessive alcohol consumption in Canada.

In his concluding statement Mr. Epp said, "I am aware that it would not be feasible to introduce any such new regulations without a wide measure of public support. It is for this reason that I regard the action taken by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario as being particularly important and valuable. I commend your organization for its concern and action on this very important matter".

**Resolution 7. Re — Pornography in all forms.**

This resolution was forwarded to the Attorney General, The Honourable Roy McMurtry and the Minister of Communications The Honourable Marcel Masse.

Mr. Michael Leshner, Counsel, replied for the Attorney General. He stated that Mr. McMurtry has taken a strong public position in favor of special provisions in the Criminal Code to deal with child pornography.

Changes in the Theatres Act which is administered by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations