

Supply—Justice

been sentenced under the criminal law is a subject which was assigned specifically to the correctional planning committee. It is one to which they have been giving some thought and which they have been discussing with the penal authorities and those responsible for reform measures in other countries which they have visited. They have, as a matter of fact, recommended to me that we in a way stop thinking about this, that we definitely take no steps until they have concluded their studies and have had time to sit down and bring in a specific recommendation as to how what you might call the philosophy in regard to treatment of drug addicts should be framed and then as to how the physical aspects of the program for their treatment and rehabilitation should be fitted in with the other parts of the new penal program on which it is their responsibility to make recommendations.

While I am anxious to make progress as rapidly as possible, I must say that I have been impressed with the reasoning, with the sense of the suggestions made by the correctional planning committee. Therefore, I do not expect that I shall be able to report any further specific progress until such time as I have had the report of that committee and had time to consider it in conjunction with the R.C.M. Police and the Department of National Health and Welfare, all of whom have views and responsibilities in this field of narcotics.

Mr. Howard: I certainly appreciate the comments of the minister. I know from listening to what he said before on this particular subject matter that this is as correct and as proper an approach as can be taken at the present time, rather than to go into something as a half way measure and then have to back up after going in an incorrect or a wrong direction. It is gratifying to know that the minister still says, and I am sure he will continue to say this because of his knowledge, that in positive treatment there is a solution and not to give up even though the problem looks almost insurmountable. It looks extremely difficult now and we should not say that we cannot cope with it, that there is no solution. To say that would be to admit defeat beforehand. I wonder whether in this regard the minister might give some indication as to when he expects the correctional planning committee will complete its studies and finalize its report, maybe not its complete report but just in so far as the question of narcotic treatment is concerned?

Mr. Fulton: The target has been set for the complete and final report of the committee at the end of this year. I expect to receive interim reports from them at the end of this

[Mr. Fulton.]

month, they having completed their travels and studies abroad. Then they will be working on their reports. I expect to receive interim reports and the over-all final report just about at the end of this year, and I have no suggestion that the target date will have to be set back.

Mr. Howard: There is another problem with respect to narcotics that I should like to deal with and these are specific matters. The minister will recall that some time ago, during the early part of March or the latter part of April—I am not sure of the exact date—I posed a question to him with respect to a newspaper article arising out of a court case in Vancouver to the effect that a Mr. Jack Webster of radio station CKNW had been able to purchase a hypodermic needle kit, specially prepared and set up for use by addicts. This was not a fully complete hypodermic syringe, but just the bare necessities for a drug addict, a do-it-yourself kit, as it has been commonly referred to. In answer to my question the minister mentioned that he would undertake to have the question studied to see what could be done to prevent druggists or drug stores from selling this type of paraphernalia obviously prepared for sale to drug addicts and drug addicts only and not bought in any sense by people who may have to take hypodermic injections of insulin or cortisone or some other drugs for physical ailments.

Also, in so far as drugs are concerned, I hold in my hand a clipping from the *Globe and Mail* of April 16 which contains the heading, "Bogus Bill Ring Deals in Drugs". It refers to the seizure by the R.C.M. Police of about 1,200 counterfeit \$10 bills from towns across Quebec. The thought expressed in the article was that these bills were being counterfeited and passed and that there was a connection between this counterfeiting ring and the sale and distribution of drugs. Can the minister indicate whether there has been any further investigation or has he anything further to report on this particular item?

My third point has to do with an incident which took place in the latter part of April, at which time a guard was apprehended in Kingston penitentiary on the charge of being in possession of narcotics, purportedly or presumably for sale to inmates who were narcotic addicts and who were in the penitentiary at Kingston. Is the minister able to recount at this stage what has happened in this particular case, both in so far as the guard is concerned, as to whether any of the inmates were discovered to have used narcotics around that period of time and whether any disciplinary action was taken against the inmates.