

There has been close consultation with psychiatrists. We have an advisory board of psychiatrists, appointed on a permanent basis, which sits regularly in order to look into this problem. The board recommended that we establish the Matsqui centre in British Columbia. It also advised on the staffing of the institution. We hope to recruit a director for the new centre, and we have some good candidates in mind. There are also psychiatric nurses available, and we hope to recruit more.

Senator Thompson: The situation is that anyone with a psychiatric disorder will not be sent to a maximum security penitentiary, but will now go to a treatment centre?

Mr. Faguy: That is right—hopefully, at least. The consensus is that from 10 to 12 per cent of the population requires psychiatric treatment of one kind or another. Some cases are acute and others are semi-acute. In Quebec and Ontario we now have some kind of psychiatric centre in the old institutions. We are not satisfied with the services or the amount of treatment provided. However, it is available, and the worst cases are now separated and treated. We hope eventually to be able to provide adequate and the right sort of treatment. However, it will take time before we can obtain the accommodation, facilities and staff to provide everyone with the treatment he requires.

Senator Thompson: Are the centres near universities and hospitals, or are they located in remote areas?

Mr. Faguy: The psychiatric centre at Matsqui is further out than we would have liked. It is in the Fraser Valley, about 40 or 50 miles from Vancouver. There is a good highway, but nevertheless we feel that it is too far out. We went there because the building was available; otherwise we would have had to find a location and erect a building, which might have taken two or three years. However, as a matter of principle, we feel that a psychiatric centre should be located near communities and universities, in order to obtain good staffing, have a good relationship with the community, and receive the assistance of those undertaking research at universities.

Senator Thompson: Will that principle be followed?

Mr. Faguy: Yes. The building at Matsqui is on a temporary basis. We are studying possible sites for its permanent location. We have accepted the principles so far recommended by our psychiatric advisers. Their final report is not yet available, but they have already recommended that such centres be close to universities and communities.

Senator Thompson: Are there instances where it is clear that some inmates require the services of a mental hospital, for electric shock or other treatment? Can he be treated in a hospital, or are those facilities maintained in the institution?

Mr. Faguy: Hospital treatment is provided for some acute cases. Arrangements have been made with psychiatric hospitals to take these people, such as that at Penetanguishene, and Pinel Institute in Montreal. However, there is a limit to their capability for doing this.

Some mental institutions or psychiatric centres do not like to accept inmates because of the security problems involved.

Senator Thompson: I am not clear about that. You say that some do not like to do this. Can you give me the number of people with psychiatric disorders who, because of the lack of community resources, are in penitentiaries? How many psychiatric cases are in the penitentiaries?

Mr. Faguy: We say that 10 to 12 per cent of the population require treatment.

The Chairman: That is, the penitentiary population?

Mr. Faguy: The penitentiary population numbers about 7,600. Let us take 10 per cent of that. We have some who are receiving treatment now. We may be left with 180. I would say that there are perhaps 600 who are not receiving what I would call adequate treatment. If you wish I could check this and give you an accurate figure. At the moment I am just guessing.

Senator Hastings: It is about 400.

Senator Thompson: How many psychiatrists do you employ?

Mr. Faguy: I believe it is 17, but I am not sure. Again, I can get this information for you.

Senator Thompson: Would you say that is enough?

Mr. Faguy: No it is definitely not enough, senator. We have only to look at the needs of a new psychiatric centre to realize that the number of psychiatrists employed is not sufficient. We are now finding that psychiatrists are becoming more interested in the Penitentiary Service; they realize we mean business and that we are going to provide the service. We have been fortunate in being able to recruit a good regional psychiatrist for the Montreal area, we are in the process now of recruiting one for the Ontario region, and we have some excellent candidates for positions in British Columbia.

Senator Thompson: You are paying a salary that is attractive, are you?

Mr. Faguy: Yes, we are. In fact, the other day while looking at the salary of a senior psychiatrist I thought that perhaps I should become a psychiatrist.

Senator Fergusson: Mr. Faguy, you mentioned earlier the Matsqui institution, and I was interested in your statement that there is a building available there. My knowledge of this might be rather vague, but I visited Matsqui a few years ago and at that time I understood there was a program for drug addicts. You were not the commissioner at that time, I know, but ten women had been transferred from the Women's prison in Kingston in order to undergo drug addiction treatment at Matsqui. I understand that there are now no women at that institution, and yet there is a building available.