

terms of the parole, greater care would be taken in selection for parole than is currently the case, for indeed one must consider their actions criminal in some of their recent decisions.

At the very least, the presiding judge should be allowed some input into the final approval for parole of any convicted person, particularly in cases of crimes of violence. It might surprise the parole board to know that judges, after years on the bench, have a contribution to make in the assessment of a person's rehabilitative chances in society; yet this expert, professional advice is not sought and hardened criminals are being released back into society with disastrous effects on honest citizens. Perhaps, too, the entire make-up of the parole board should be changed to include more lay people and less social workers who often tend to pay more attention to the poor convict than to the victim of his crime.

In so far as the security of our penal institutions is concerned, this is a technical matter and should not even be before this body. Either you have a man competent in his job of keeping prisoners in jail or you get rid of him and employ a man who can do the job. In this regard I have no hesitation in recommending the immediate dismissal of the warden and senior officers of St. Vincent de Paul for gross neglect of duty if not for any other reason. There has been some suggestion that inside help was made available to the five convicts who escaped very recently. If this is the case, I trust the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand) will pursue his investigation to the fullest and that the most severe penalty will be imposed upon those responsible for the escape. That five such dangerous men should be allowed to escape in broad daylight during a lunch hour, and that all four watch towers should be unoccupied, is more than anybody could even remotely find plausible.

● (2010)

The whole incident reeks of collusion and corruption; even more so when one realizes that there was almost one guard on duty to every prisoner. Again, in light of the fact that instructions had been issued to man these towers on a 24-hour basis, I would call for the immediate resignation of the warden of St. Vincent de Paul prison and the officials of any other prisons where the job of security for the protection of society is not being carried out adequately. Such incompetence must not be permitted to exist in our penal institutions.

Perhaps the most unfortunate effect of this entire incident will be the detrimental effect on future chances of parole for deserving men and women presently in jail. When the record is reviewed, it is the Parole Board and their sometimes senseless granting of weekend passes and early parole who must take partial blame. The remainder of the blame must be taken by this government which has permitted this situation to exist and to grow into its present state. To award weekend passes to sex deviates, rapists and murderers is beyond all reason, particularly in cases where the victims of sex deviates and rapists have not and will not ever recover from the effects of the injuries done to them.

I hope and pray that a thorough and complete investigation into the policies and procedures of the National Parole Board is included, and indeed receives the highest priority

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in this investigation of the penitentiary system. This is the crucial issue here, not the simple one of housekeeping in the penitentiaries.

If we must spend additional funds to erect an institution to house our hardened criminals, then let us do so. But please let us not spend millions of dollars in this regard and then flood that institution with weekend passes and overnight leaves. Let us face the fact that there are those who have no regard for others, who spit in the face of honest men and regard work for society as something others do. Let us say to these men, "You shall be incarcerated in prison, and there you shall stay. You were given a chance, you were given a second chance or even a third chance, and you shall receive no more. Society shall be protected from you from now on". Perhaps, then, those individuals will be separated from others and their insidious, hardened habits will not spread like a cancer among other prisoners.

To the others we can begin to offer a sincere program of rehabilitation, not making licence plates or hand carvings, or putting patches on mailbags for the Post Office, but introducing an educational program coupled with learning a specific trade. Instead of being turned back into society with no specific training, he can look forward to employment in a given area. Certainly this program is going to cost money, but will the cost be any greater than is presently the case in housing and feeding these men year after year?

It is unfortunate that these men often become entangled in a continuous cycle of being in and out of prison. It has often been said that it is not a case of having too few policemen but of having too many criminals loose in society. Let us offer them the opportunity to increase their knowledge, to learn a trade; let us assist them in gaining employment. Then if they continue to follow their criminal routine, let us incarcerate them and separate them not only from society from their fellow inmates who truly wish to turn a new page in their lives.

In conclusion, let me reiterate the point I made earlier. Let us not become bogged down in the mechanics of security in our prisons. This is a simple matter to resolve. Let us concentrate on the real issue facing us right now, and that issue is the complete investigation of the current practices and guidelines under which the National Parole Board is mishandling the responsibility with which it is charged.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, we consider the motion before the House of considerable importance, but I want to make very clear at the outset that we consider it of importance not for the hard-rock, red-neck reasons to which you have just listened.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: It is all very well for hon. members to say that they are in favour of rehabilitation after they have said everything that feeds the worst in human nature and calls for incarceration without limit, except the limit of the judge, and creates an atmosphere of fear and resentment against modern attempts to rehabilitate the criminal. I say to the hon. member who has just spoken that if the second part of his speech was sincere—and I have no