

*Minister's Statement on Penitentiaries*

be less inclined to rob a bank: on the contrary, he will already have a bank account. He may even, as in the case of other workers, receive unemployment insurance payments during the period required for finding some employment.

In Drumheller, Alberta, we have already gone one step further: the inmates are fully responsible for the construction, the organization and the operation of a golf practice range. And the money derived from the income of this business is entirely invested into a trust fund for inmates. This pilot project, in which we have a good deal of hope, will show that it is possible to allow the inmates themselves to assume responsibilities and thus to act as they would within a normal community.

Another important project in the field of correctional education is presently being implemented. Last September, the St. Lawrence Community College of Kingston extended its campus in order to include the Collins Bay Penitentiary. The institution will therefore be integrated into the campus and the inmates will be able to follow the same programs, have the same teachers and receive the same degrees as the college's fulltime students. This will improve the structure of educational programs as well as the turnover of teachers. The inmate will thus have contacts with a larger number of persons from the outside and this will facilitate his eventual re-integration into society.

The Canadian Penitentiary Service is involved in yet another research project in co-operation with the Donner Foundation of Toronto and the University of Victoria. In a year's time, we want to have determined the effects of correctional education in order to assess inmates' activities following their release.

However, it will be impossible to achieve these reforms if we do not have a highly qualified staff at our disposal. We want to expand our vocational staff—criminologists, sociologists, psychologists, correctional technicians, etc.—in order to increase the ratio between professionals and inmates. We have vast reserves at our disposal, since already the junior colleges, the colleges and the universities offer technical and vocational courses in the correctional field.

We also want to provide our employees with every opportunity of retraining themselves.

• (2:20 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. Hees:** For heaven's sake, he has two more pages!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Hees:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, is there no limit on the length of time the minister can take? I think he is trying to talk himself out.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member knows that under the standing orders no time limit is imposed in respect of a statement made on motions by a minister. The limitation of time applies only to the replies made by spokesmen on behalf of the opposition parties. There may be some unfairness to this. I have in the past expressed the view and made the suggestion to ministers that perhaps some thought should be given to making statements

on motions shorter rather than longer, and I would hope ministers would take this into consideration. If a minister makes a statement which takes 20 or 25 minutes I believe in such a case the House and the Chair must be prepared to hear longer comments by spokesmen on behalf of the opposition parties. It may be that when we are considering a matter as important as that now being dealt with by the minister we would want to devote more time to the subject. I do think, however, that there should be an effort made by ministers making statements on motions to present them within reasonable time limits.

[Translation]

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** I apologize for interrupting the hon. minister.

[English]

Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

**Mr. MacInnis:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, considering the fact that the minister obviously has three or four more pages to read, what about the rule that forbids the reading of speeches in the House?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member knows, of course, that that rule does not apply to statements on motions.

[Translation]

**Mr. Goyer:** We have great confidence in our personnel and we will give them both the educational and the monetary facilities to enable them to undertake retraining.

So that all may have a better understanding of the new policies, the heads and officials of our institutions will also be given the opportunity of improving their training. The administrative and organizational structures will be updated and we will emphasize further regionalization.

All the reforms pertaining to our correctional officials and personnel are conceived in a spirit of consultation which we intend to further develop. To that effect we will increase the meetings so as to ensure continuous communications.

A third major element in the implementation of these reforms is the citizens' involvement. The program which the members of our society have to set up in order to foster the ex-offender's rehabilitation is an important one. We have undertaken long-term studies on community relations to improve the planning of the programs in which citizens, employers, voluntary agencies and professionals are involved with us; and we have also encouraged Canadian employers, as well as our own departments, to employ parolees and ex-offenders.

As our society becomes better acquainted with the problems of crime and rehabilitation of offenders and as citizens realize both the economic and social advantages of a rehabilitation program, a major part of the challenge that faces us will have been met.

Our reforms will perhaps be criticized for being too liberal or for omitting to protect society against dangerous criminals.

Indeed, this new rehabilitation policy will probably demand much striving and involve some risks, but we cannot maintain a system which in itself can cause even more obvious dangers.