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guard against convicts. I was in the B.C. penitentiary where the racism was very much in the open- guards hating the convicts and as a result it was returned by us. On the whole it is not a beneficial environment for either side, but it continues to remain. Finally, there is the problem of a shortage of professional social workers or psychiatrists to work with the prisoners who need and desire help in solving mental disorders.

There are school courses and trades offered in prison, in a way to benefit to prisoners. But remember, they are only useful if you could get a job on the street when released from prison.

The chance for a prisoner to receive a job is practically nil, because of a criminal record, and the present level of high unemployment in general. With so many

people looking for jobs, the last people to be hired are ex-convicts.

The point I am trying to make is that if persons in the general work force, having no stigma of a criminal record cannot easily find employment, then tell me this: What is the ex-con supposed to do?

When a convict returns to society after spending time in prison and is released with only \$180 to get clothes, food and housing, the money is not going to last too long. That basically leaves him with two alternatives, welfare, and/or stealing money again so he can have food in his stomach and a roof over his head. There is one more alternative and that is to return to prison again, which one certainly doesn't want to do, but often has no choice in the matter. At least in prison you are taken care of, after a fashion.

As a later matter of fact, if there

was no criminal element in Canada, then there would be approximately sixty to one hundred thousand more persons out of work. Then the prisons and justice system are a very good source of income for people, and therefore, create a high rate of recidivism. It turns the various prisons into human warehouses across Canada as well as the United States.

So to close, I wish to stress again that if you really care about your fellow man then please write to the Solicitor-General, Francis Fox, in Ottawa regarding the **Coalition and Support Service** in Halifax. It would also help to contact the Department of Manpower and Immigration as well as get in touch with your local M.P., pressing them to do something positive about restoring funding for an organization such as the C.S.S. which benefits not only prisoners, but also all of society.

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