

Mr. Faguy: I would be very pleased if the figure was 10 per cent. I think the figure is around 35 or 40 per cent. I do not know; I am guessing.

Senator Buckwold: Mr. Chairman, I am wondering if we could be provided with information regarding the federal prison population for the last five years, the total expenditures of the Canadian Penitentiary Service for the last five years, and the per inmate cost annually for the last five years?

Mr. Faguy: Just to be sure, I have this, you are requesting information regarding the total per inmate cost over the last five years, the total prison population per year?

Senator Buckwold: Yes, I would imagine you would divide the number of prisoners into the total expenditure.

Mr. Faguy: We have those figures available and we will provide that information for maximum security, medium security and minimum security institutions.

The Chairman: This information should become an appendix to our record, so it will be available when needed.

Senator Andrew Thompson: I would like to speak further regarding the training provided in the penitentiaries, because I feel it relates to the opportunities which are available after a person has been paroled. I notice that the Guelph Reformatory recently sold their herd of cattle. This was, apparently, a tremendous herd which won several prizes. They did this because they felt this kind of training was no longer related to the agricultural activities in the community. You indicated that part of the training provided by the penitentiary was sewing mail bags. Are there other areas such as this which you feel are not really equipping a man to work after he has been released?

Mr. Faguy: It could very well be. I feel we are providing a useful service to the Post Office. I used to work for the Post Office Department, and I must admit that I appreciated the work which was being done. This year we were able to provide them with all their needs for Christmas, and we saved the department hundreds of thousands of dollars since they did not have to buy new bags. However, this does not provide training, except as it relates to their working habits, and it keeps them busy.

We have stated in the press release in connection with the Mohr Report that it is only a basis from which to start, and we will have to become more specific as to the total program in view of its recommendations with respect to the maximum security institution. We also stated that we would evaluate a total program throughout Canada as it relates to medium and minimum security institutions, including the farming and mail bag operations and so forth. We hope we will come to consultation, just as the Mohr Report did, and decide whether these operations should be discarded or continued. It may be decided that as long as these inmates are working on a bonus-incentive basis and being taught work habits of eight hours a day they should be continued. There would be a review of all these programs.

I do not wish to make a statement at the moment, but will wait for the completion of the evaluation.

Senator Hastings: What is the policy of the federal government regarding employment of former inmates in the Public Service of Canada?

Mr. Faguy: They are allowed to work in the Public Service of Canada. As you know, the mention of previous convictions was removed from the application form and such applicants are now accepted in the Public Service.

Senator Hastings: Are there any in your service?

Mr. Faguy: I believe we have one ex-federal inmate as a casual worker in a temporary type of position. He may have left now, as he was hoping for a better job.

The Chairman: Do any inmates express a desire to enter the Penitentiary Service?

Mr. Faguy: Yes, we are now receiving requests. I recall two recently from ex-inmates who said they were interested in returning to work as staff members. One of these two has good qualifications, and they were informed that a correctional officers' competition on a national basis will be announced and advertised, we hope, next week. They were advised to submit applications. If qualified, they could be accepted.

Senator Buckwold: Would this be a plus or minus aspect?

Mr. Faguy: We must be very careful that the applicant has the right attitude and aptitude to work in an institution with other inmates. Problems could arise on both sides, related to both inmates and the new staff member. Personally, I favour the hiring of ex-inmates in the Penitentiary Service provided they have the right qualifications and attitude.

The Chairman: This would hardly have been possible under the old custodial system, but might prove very important in encouraging acceptance of the new approach. Am I correct?

Mr. Faguy: Yes. We have done quite a bit of work in this regard throughout the country in an endeavour to identify a number of ex-inmates who we think could serve as consultative bodies to us in order to improve the programs. We now have 115 names, some of them of well-known personalities, who certainly could be helpful if they wish to be identified with this program. One way or the other, we will consult with groups of ex-inmates in order to find out how the programs can be improved and the problems resolved. Groups of ex-inmates were, in fact, consulted with respect to the Mohr Report. They were asked for recommendations to improve the Penitentiary Service. If anyone should know, it is the ex-inmate. We are all in favour of using their knowledge, of using them as consultant, and we hope that eventually some of them will serve as members of the staff.