

Establishment of New Departments

in that penitentiary who are to be moved in June or July to the new Matsqui institute in British Columbia. Nineteen of the 20 women do not want to go there. Why? Because they will be released right back into the same environment and among the same people who made them addicts. Nineteen out of 20 women in the women's institution at Kingston want to be held there and released from there, not taken to an institution 3,000 miles away from which, upon release, they will drift back into the same environment.

The decision was to transfer them to Matsqui, but now that decision is being reconsidered by the Solicitor General. Three days after I and the member for Vancouver-Kingsway drew this matter to the attention of the Solicitor General he was at the women's penitentiary looking into the question. He showed an entirely different approach. He is one who can and will give of his time. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am in favour of this change. I hope it will result in a different approach than we have seen in the past.

I have just mentioned the women's penitentiary at Kingston. This government spent thousands of dollars equipping a hairdressing establishment there to teach those women a trade. After a long time permission was received from the provincial authorities in Toronto and the plan was that after 1,600 hours instruction under personal supervision these women would be given an official Ontario certificate as hairdressers, and upon their release would have a trade.

This hairdressing establishment has not yet been opened. Do you know why? Because it was under the Department of Justice, which spent the money to equip an establishment inside the prison to teach hairdressing, but it has not yet been used because they will not supply the money to pay an instructor. These are the kinds of stupid things that have gone on in the penitentiaries system, which falls under the Department of Justice. I presume these things have happened because the minister has not the time to deal with everything and leaves it to the bureaucrats, who do not give a hoot anyway. I give the committee just those two examples, the transfer of narcotics addicts to a place they should never go to, and spending a great deal of money to train people, and then leaving the plan to gather dust because they do not supply an instructor. We hope that upon a transfer of responsibility to the Solicitor General this sort of thing will change.

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The Deputy Chairman: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the time allotted for his speech has expired.

Mr. Winkler: Mr. Chairman, may I be permitted to ask the hon. member a question?

The Deputy Chairman: Does the committee give its unanimous consent to the hon. member's asking a question of the hon. member for Vancouver East?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Winkler: I listened attentively to the hon. member's contribution; I heard his words of approbation, and so on. He was denigrating this government and the previous government for lack of action in meeting the technological advances and advances in automation in today's society. I would ask the hon. member—and I ask my question in all seriousness—if he does not consider that the contribution made by the previous minister of labour, the hon. member for Ontario, for the vocational schools training program and in the field of university expansion was a valuable one?

Mr. Winch: Of course it was a valuable contribution; but that does not solve the problem, and it did not require a special committee, departmental or otherwise, to bring in that legislation.

Mr. Winkler: That is quite right.

Mr. Winch: The major problem is still to be resolved.

Mr. Winkler: It will never be resolved.

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a few remarks, and they will be critical, on the matter of the setting up of the energy, mines and resources department. When I say my remarks will be critical, they will not be critical of the fact that the department is to be set up, because I think it is necessary. However, I will be critical of the actions, of lack of action, of the minister who holds the portfolio of Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys at the present time. I will not stray from the subject before the committee, but I think this question is important to the subject.

I agree completely that a department of energy, mines and resources is a logical department of government. In my opinion the duties assigned to this department are the