

*Supply—Justice*

it. If we have been spending \$3½ million or \$4 million as the minister said on a medium security prison and this is what it is, then it is a complete waste of money and we have nothing more than a reproduction of Kingston penitentiary itself, only modernly constructed and of recent date.

**Mr. Fulton:** With respect to the letters of inmates of Kingston penitentiary to which my hon. friend refers, I have checked further and I am advised that although the act authorizes the warden to retain, destroy or otherwise deal with an inadmissible letter as he may see fit, the practice is to return the letter to the sender with an explanation why it is inadmissible and so to inform the intended recipient. My advisers inform me that this is the practice and if there has been any departure from that practice we should be glad to be supplied with the names and particulars in so far as the hon. member has them available so that we may investigate.

**Mr. Howard:** This is only what has been told to me by inmates with whom I have spoken. They may not have told me the full facts.

**Mr. Fulton:** With respect to the official who is authorized to examine the mail, he is known as a censor clerk and his sole duty consists of supervising the arrangements for visits, supervising visits and censoring the mail, incoming and outgoing. If there is any case in which there is any doubt as to whether a letter is properly sent out or properly to be delivered to an inmate, the clerk of course can refer the matter to the warden.

With respect to the problem of the number of visits that an inmate is allowed to receive, I think the hon. member has probably stated correctly that consideration should be given to relaxing that restriction of one visit a month. However, I am informed that the governing factor in this situation is the accommodation available. When you take an institution such as St. Vincent de Paul, which I regret to say now has something over 1,300 inmates and is close to Montreal from which the majority of the inmates come, I think my hon. friend will see that if we were to admit much more than one visitor per month we would be simply unable to provide accommodation for visitors and inmates to carry on these visits. But we have been working, I am informed, on the improvement of the accommodation available for the holding of visits. As we proceed with our construction program generally and relieve the overcrowding situation, with the special attention that is being paid to rooms available for visiting, we hope then to be able to take another look at this limitation of one per month.

With regard to Joyceville I think it may be correctly described as a medium security institution and not just another Kingston penitentiary as has been suggested. With respect to the building itself, it is true that all normal activities will be carried on within the ordinary walls of the building. But there is no prison wall around Joyceville. I want to emphasize the fact that there is no provision for gun turrets and that no guards will be stationed with guns at any point in Joyceville as in the big old fashioned type of institution. Furthermore, the construction program calls for the installation of exercise ground or grounds outside the prison wall and not enclosed by a wall. The Joyceville compound will not in itself be enclosed by a prison wall as is the case with the old fashioned types of institutions which are described as maximum security. There will merely be a fence. There will also be a farm attached to Joyceville which will similarly be surrounded by a fence and not by a wall. There will be many occasions on which inmates will be outside the walls and not separated by anything other than ordinary fences from the outside. It is not a minimum security institution by any means but it is a very considerable improvement on Kingston.

**Mr. Howard:** I have one other thought on this matter, if I may be allowed to express it. Will the institution at Springhill be a maximum security institution or a minimum security institution?

**Mr. Fulton:** That institution will certainly be starting as a minimum security institution and I hope we can keep it as a minimum security institution.

**Mr. Howard:** What about the proposed penitentiary in western Canada or is that too far in the future to determine what degree of security will surround that one?

**Mr. Fulton:** About as far as I can go in that matter is to say that we do not think it will be anything more than a medium security institution.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** What about the satellite institution at William Head? Is that the old type? I do not know whether or not I am correct in calling it a satellite institution. Is that the old immigration building?

**Mr. Fulton:** Yes, that is correct. It is the old quarantine station owned and operated formerly by the Department of National Health and Welfare.