

Supply—Justice

out completely even back in 1938. He said there were 400 cells in the St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary that were unfit for human occupation—unfit in 1938; and today those self-same cells are occupied by prisoners.

I only wish more members of this House of Commons would visit the federal institutions and see the conditions for themselves. I do not think the members of this house need worry about getting into a penitentiary or getting out, because I have always found that if I got in in the morning I always got out in the afternoon or evening. So there is no danger there. But I am convinced that if the members of this house would do this—because this is part of our responsibility; we have a duty to deal with penitentiaries and penology—they would take immediate action to rectify the appalling conditions that were exposed by Judge Archambault in 1938. I say that not only to the male members of this house, but to the female members also. I wish the women members would visit the women's jail at Kingston. If they were to spend one day in that jail they would come back here and get action from the Minister of Justice to improve the conditions at that jail, or they would tear out what little hair he has left. The conditions at Kingston are appalling.

How are you going to rehabilitate these women when they have to live under such shocking conditions? This is an institution that was never meant to be an institution of this kind. It is absolutely outdated and obsolete. The laundry room is right next door to the boiler room, and the dozen girls who have to work in the laundry room do so in temperatures that reach 108 degrees. The steam pipe system in that institution is so terrible, so deplorable, that it is in a continuous sweat, and because of the continuous sweat the condensation of the steam is rusting the cells and everything in them.

They can paint the cells—as they do—in that institution and within a few weeks it is all stripped off; it sweats off. This is the type of institution in which these women are confined. You can go into the penitentiary at Kingston or St. Vincent de Paul and see these terrible conditions. I say that something is wrong with us if we do not do something about it. I do not believe we should mollycoddle these criminals; I do not believe we should pussyfoot with them. They are there because they have broken the law. They are there for punishment, yes. But they are there for rehabilitation also. We spend millions and millions of dollars on a so-called policy of trying to rehabilitate these people. How can we do it when they are confined in conditions such as these? In the St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary, for example, there are hundreds of cells in which there are no

sanitary facilities; where there is a bucket alongside the so-called bed, into which you can respond to nature. And alongside the bucket is a little jar containing your drinking water. The sanitary bucket is cleaned out once a day, and many of these people are in the cells 24 hours a day. People talk about rehabilitation. We are pouring the taxpayers' money down the drain, and we are certainly not preparing these prisoners to lead useful lives.

During the last two years in particular we have had riots in our prisons. There have been riots in St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary which have cost the taxpayers over \$2 million to repair the damage. Why? Because of conditions which no man could bear; because not only are there these conditions in the cells but there is also the question of food. Yes, the food is good. I do not think anybody confined in our penitentiaries today would complain about the quality, quantity or preparation of the food. But these men have to go and pick up their food, and the distance is so great from the place where they collect their food to their cells that by the time they get back to their cells the food is cold. Therefore for three meals a day you are eating a cold-plate, and food which is supposed to be eaten hot, but which is eaten cold, does not taste very good.

Adding all these things together, no wonder we have had riots and the complaints. Then when they do riot—and nobody can commend them for rioting—they are put into segregation cells. I am not talking from hearsay; a number of us spent a day there. What did we find? We found men who are ringleaders, who are dangerous, who are mentally unstable, emotionally upset, easily aroused, incarcerated in these cells week after week after week after week. They were never let out of the cell for even a half hour of recreation. Why? Because there was not a gate unlocked leading to the recreation section. The contractor had not done his work properly and the Department of Public Works had not seen that something was done about it. I know they were asked to do something time after time. Yet men of this type, who become easily aroused, are confined in these cells week after week and their mental condition is worsened to the state where they are incited to riot. These situations cannot be allowed.

Hon. members have all read in the newspapers about the cockroaches, the vermin, the rats that infest our penitentiaries. The warden at St. Vincent de Paul employs a man who does nothing else all day and every day but go around with exterminating material trying to kill this vermin. If you had 100 men going out every day you would never get rid of them, because as fast as