

Adjournment Debate

Mrs. Freda Buxbaum is still at large today and angry police officers claim he is just laughing at them.

The fugitive is Glen Wayne Jansen, 24, who was on parole and living at the Burrard Rehabilitation Centre at the time of the murder. Mrs. Buxbaum, 42, was strangled in the underground parking garage at the Civic Centre when she was on a shopping trip for the wedding of her only daughter.

Jansen has been in and out of jail since he was 17. He has escaped from custody twice and been recaptured. He has been paroled twice before—in 1969 and 1970—and both times the parole was revoked for violations. Jansen also failed to report back to the Burrard Centre on June 25. A warrant has been issued by the National Parole Service charging him with being unlawfully at large.

Last March, while living at the Burrard Centre located at the YMCA, Jansen was charged with auto theft and possessing stolen property. He was arrested at the YMCA and later released on \$5,000 bail posted by a girl friend. He was due for trial Thursday, but was allowed to continue living at the Burrard Centre.

Police said he was employed by the city as a labourer. He injured a foot several weeks ago and has been on compensation.

Police are baffled about how Jansen managed to get so many paroles while being convicted on one charge after another. They hope to find out when he is caught, but one angry officer said; "He's just laughing at us."

Sergeant Paul Starek, head of the Burnaby RCMP, general investigation section, today slammed the parole system for allowing dangerous people out on parole.

Starek said parole officials deal with a criminal under clinical conditions when the criminal is at his most persuasive.

"I've talked to a lot of convicts over the past 25 years and this is what they've told me", Starek said. "They upgrade their education, join various prison committees and try to convince prison and parole officials that they've changed. I've talked to a number of parole officials and when I suggest these people should be held in custody for the protection of society they seem to be amazed at me and wonder where I've come from. Sometimes I almost think I've been around too long." Starek said the ease with which these convicts get out on parole frequently causes difficulty for police investigating crimes.

● (2220)

We'll think of a suspect and somebody will say, 'No, he's in custody', so we eliminate that person as a suspect. Later we find that the person was out on parole at the time of the offence.

"They just do not want to keep people in prison any more. Our night patrols are checking three and four people on the streets at a time who are not supposed to be there. You cannot tell me a parolee out at 3 a.m. or 4 a.m. is there to do society any good." Starek charged that the parole service is also understaffed. "They have no control at all", he said.

[Mr. Reynolds.]

Jansen, otherwise known as Robert Allan Street, is six foot one, weighs 185 pounds and has blue eyes and dark blond hair. He was last seen in Penticton a couple of days ago.

This issue is a very serious one, Madam Speaker. The people not only of British Columbia but the people of Canada are concerned about the activities not only of our penitentiaries, where we have had some problems in the past few weeks, but also the parole system. I can remember mentioning a number of months ago in this House about the towers in the British Columbia penitentiary, and how they should put some dummies in the towers if the minister didn't have enough money to put some people there for security. The minister made quite a joke of it but this man has been convicted so many times of so many offences, and was only convicted last in 1972 when he was charged with rape, kidnapping, and robbery. He was convicted of kidnapping and robbery and sentenced to seven years on both charges. In 1972 he was walking the streets on day parole, and while he is on day parole he is arrested on another charge, and is still allowed to walk the streets instead of being put back into a penitentiary. Now he is suspected of one of the worst crimes to hit our city in the past year.

An hon. Member: Now we know where the dummies are.

Mr. Reynolds: The hon. member says we know where the dummies are, Madam Speaker, and I happen to agree with him. I have the greatest respect for the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand), but to defend the actions of the parole board as he did in this instance is inexcusable. He also defended the actions of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) when I asked him this morning about the cut-backs and whether they had to do with security. I hope tomorrow morning the Solicitor General will retract that statement in the House because I am sure he did not mean to mislead the House.

When the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien) spoke last week, he mentioned the cuts in the budget. Some \$4 million in the Solicitor General's budget is cut and there is \$4 million in the RCMP budget that is going to be cut. Certainly the RCMP offers security for the Canadian people, but the major cut is the \$8 million in the construction of penal institutions, and that certainly has to do with security. In British Columbia we need a new maximum security institution and I would like to know where that \$8 million is going. I hope the Solicitor General will withdraw that statement tomorrow because this is a serious issue. We cannot afford to have money taken from the budget of the Solicitor General's department, a department that the government is having so much trouble with in this parliament as in past years. We need more money in that department. There are no members of this House, as he well knows, Madam Speaker, who will argue with any increase in government expenditures in the Solicitor General's department that will improve the safety of the people of Canada, who right now are not getting the security that they need or require.

Mr. Charles Turner (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, in reply to the question of the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-