

a day to operate correctional institutions. Thus it can be said that by 1977/1978 the total operating cost of federal and provincial correctional services was well in excess of \$500,000,000.

The costs of correctional services for juvenile offenders are obviously very high. There are different types of training schools as well as halfway houses, foster homes for delinquent young people, as well as probationary services, all of which cost money. Unfortunately, no statistics are at present available so that we have not been able to find how much these correctional services are costing the provinces. Statistics Canada at the present time does not have sufficient funds to provide the research necessary for this information.

The capital cost of building new penitentiaries is a constant drain on public funds. During the decade 1968/78, the federal government spent steadily increasing sums of money in order to build new penitentiaries which are now over-crowded and, what is more important, do little to rehabilitate successfully the offenders who are sent to them. The following table shows the increase in the cost of operating federal correctional institutions as well as capital costs involved in building new ones.

**THE TOTAL ANNUAL COST OF PENITENTIARIES
TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
(IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)**

| YEAR | OPERATING | CAPITAL | TOTAL |
|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| 1967-68 | 40,150 | 23,078 | 63,228 |
| 1968-69 | 47,354 | 13,780 | 61,134 |
| 1969-70 | 50,787 | 15,941 | 66,728 |
| 1970-71 | 56,477 | 14,019 | 70,496 |
| 1971-72 | 65,678 | 14,137 | 79,815 |
| 1972-73 | 78,386 | 7,971 | 86,357 |
| 1973-74 | 97,329 | 12,706 | 110,035 |
| 1974-75 | 121,688 | 17,111 | 138,799 |
| 1975-76 | 152,616 | 29,424 | 182,040 |
| 1976-77 | 183,097 | 34,686 | 217,783 |
| 1977-78 | 240,344 | 69,805 | 295,526 |

Includes capital costs in building new institutions.

(Extract from Public Accounts)

During the decade 1968/78, provincial governments spent an amount in excess of \$129,786,379 to build new prisons.

In spite of the enormous cost, it is obvious that the present treatment of offenders has failed to stem the tide of violence in our society. Improved methods to protect the public, and to punish and reform offenders are urgently needed. At the same time every effort should be made to prevent crimes of violence. This is surely a case of an ounce of prevention being worth ten of cure.