

*Supply—Solicitor General*

simply mention a few of the organizations involved: the Anglican Church of Canada; a number of the dioceses of the Roman Catholic Church; the Canadian Association of Social Workers; the Canadian Corrections Association; the Canadian Lutheran Council; the Elizabeth Fry Societies; the John Howard Societies, and so on. I could go on and on.

All these organizations have strong objections to the isolated location of many of the penitentiaries recently completed or now in course of construction. Has consideration been given to these representations which arise in part from the fact that it is difficult to obtain the services of properly qualified staff in locations so far removed from the main population centres? If there is a shortage of psychiatrists, as there is in this country, if there is a shortage of psychologists, as there is in this country, if there is a shortage of social workers, as there is in this country, and if these people have a choice as to employment, is the minister or his department surprised that these specialists should want to live where others in their field are living, in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton or Vancouver? They do not want to live in the rural, small town areas where we have traditionally built our correctional institutions. If the minister really means business and would like to obtain the services of professional staff, is he giving consideration to this criticism which has been levelled at the building program and to these representations that we should build our institutions near the cities? If he has, I should like to hear from him.

• (4:20 p.m.)

This group of organizations also talked about priority in building. The minister listened to their submission more than a year ago and he knows as well as I do that there is no connection between the priorities they suggested and the building program which the minister spoke of on June 6. Their first priority concerned reception and classification units. There is not a single reception and classification unit on the list which the minister gave.

I shall not go into detail again on the many objections to the horrible, terrible, mediaeval building which has been erected at St. Vincent de Paul, a building which is the shame of the government and the people of Canada. It was too late to stop its construction when this group made their submission but they did suggest that it be turned into a reception and classification unit. I would like to hear what the minister thinks about that.

[Mr. Orlikow.]

Their second priority was medical and psychiatric units where people with special problems could receive treatment. I could cite case after case reported in newspapers in my own city of Winnipeg, in Montreal and Toronto, where people who committed crimes and appeared before magistrates and judges were sentenced to six months or a year in prison. In each case the magistrate in effect told the individual, "I know you are not going to get any help in the jail or penitentiary to which I am sending you. You will be just as bad or worse when you come out of it but I simply do not have any other place to send you." Sex offenders and other types of offenders who need special treatment are sent to regular correctional units where they tend to corrupt the other inmates.

Their third priority concerned maximum security units. I would like the minister to tell us what decision the government has made about the Millhaven unit. I have before me a letter dated May 18, 1967, copies of which were sent to all members of parliament by the president of the John Howard Society of Canada, Mr. A. B. Whitelaw. It includes a resolution which I want to put on the record:

Resolved that the John Howard Society of Canada go on record as approving the conclusions of the parliamentary committee condemning the design of the maximum security institutions and that we urge the government not to act on the recommendation of the penitentiary committee to proceed with the maximum security institution at Millhaven on the present design; but that we urge the government to find alternative methods of dealing with present population problems in the federal prisons, if such do exist, until a more acceptable design can be developed.

I would like to know from the minister whether that resolution is being considered by the government or whether, like all the other recommendations of this and other organizations, it is being ignored and is gathering dust in the files. If it is being ignored I wonder how long the minister expects the people interested in these organizations to continue their work.

This group of organizations also recommended that we get on with the job of special detention units. I have already mentioned what they think about the one we have built at Montreal. These are voluntary organizations and these are their recommendations with respect to a proper correctional program. Before we pass these estimates I would like to know what the minister proposes to do about them.

If we are to make any basic change in the situation it seems to me we have to look at the problem before people actually enter prisons,