

The Address—Mr. Tolmie

their sentences and who require assistance in re-establishing themselves in the community; seven, a staff training college; eight, institutional facilities for narcotic drug addicts both male and female.

In every institution there will be a program of activities which will comprise the following elements of the corrective process: one, employment at a purposeful occupation during working hours; two, leisure time—a program for physical education and recreation; three, religious facilities; four, contact with families and social agencies; five, education—library services, vocational training, elementary and higher education. Programs are being developed with the aid of medical and other agencies, such as the Narcotic Drug Foundation.

The question may be properly asked: the government has this new concept and grandiose plans, but what has been accomplished since 1963, the starting date of this ten year program? First, two special correctional units have been completed. Two maximum security institutions have been completed. No further maximum security institutions will be constructed until the operation of the present ones has been thoroughly studied. Four medium security institutions have been completed and are now in operation. The reception and the psychiatric centres are in the detailed planning stage. The Drug Addicts Institution in British Columbia is operating with almost 100 inmates under treatment. Four prerelease centres are now in operation in our larger cities. The Mountain Prison addition is complete. A new staff college has been built for the Quebec region, and temporary accommodation for one in western Canada has been arranged.

In addition to the facilities planned, a vast program of officer training has been operating for some two years and is rapidly expanding. No correctional officer goes on duty in a penitentiary with less than three months training, and courses for officers already in the service are available at the staff colleges.

Thus, this brief resume of physical and training facilities indicates that the government has made marked progress in attaining its avowed goal of humanitarian correctional reform. Of course, the construction of physical facilities is only one aspect of reform in the correctional process, and in order to make reform meaningful the whole broad subject of criminology must be constantly researched and reviewed.

The subject of probation and parole is an integral part of correctional reform. The basic question is, following the conviction of an offender does his and society's best interest require that he be incarcerated or can the process of reform be better achieved on probation within the community?

• (4:50 p.m.)

Statistical evidence shows that the proportion of offenders sentenced to prison in Canada is much higher than that of any other civilized country. For example, in 1953—I do not have later statistics—England and Wales sent 34,000 people to prison and in the same year Canada sent 98,000, or nearly three times as many as a country

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with twice our population. This is something we should really consider more seriously.

Slowly but surely the importance of probation is becoming recognized as a well tested method of accomplishing the objectives of criminal law without sending the accused to prison. Plain economic considerations should dictate support for expanded probation when it is known that the annual per capita cost of keeping a prisoner in a penitentiary or in a provincial reformatory is about \$3,000, compared with approximately \$250 for an offender placed on probation.

Much greater latitude must be shown by the federal and provincial governments in regard to probation. A step forward could be taken by the federal government by amending Section 638 of the Criminal Code to broaden the grounds for probation. This would have the effect of changing the present law governing probation which restricts it in the main to the first offender and excludes recidivists from its operation. This is an amendment which should be forthcoming very shortly.

On the question of parole, it should be noted that the National Parole Board has granted parole to more than 16,000 inmates in its first eight years of life. Of this number only about 1,800 had to be returned to prison for violation of parole. The board's average of about 90 per cent is very impressive indeed. Although the Parole Board, within its legislative limits, is doing an excellent job I contend that as yet we are not realizing the full economic and social benefits to be derived from a more liberal program of parole. I believe that the government is considering amending the Parole Act to extend parole or a form of conditional liberation to all inmates leaving prison. I urge the government to take immediate action to implement this most desirable innovation.

Thus it can be seen that the government, to implement its rehabilitative concept of correctional reform, has constructed new modern facilities, appointed investigation committees into criminology, and has tackled the problems of probation and parole. This, of course, is a most commendable record, but as in every area of governmental endeavour errors have been made. Inertia overcomes action, and change is always difficult and painstakingly slow.

Much has been done but much more needs to be done. What about the future? As a member and as a citizen I would like to see a proportion of the money being spent, close to \$70 million on the penitentiary service, diverted to preventive measures such as a more vigorous attack, in conjunction with the provinces, on the causes and remedies for juvenile delinquency.

As a member, and as a citizen, I would like to see more money spent on criminal research. Millions of dollars are spent by companies and governments on a whole array of research projects such as drug research, food research, automobile research, and much scientific research. But very little is spent on criminal research. Less than one-tenth of the vast sums of public funds spent by both federal and provincial governments on crime and prisons is used for research.