

Supply—Solicitor General

system has been greatly extended and now has 65 stations across Canada. A national automobile theft bureau has been established at R.C.M.P. headquarters and has been operating since April 1, 1967.

The increases during the past three years in the strength of the force and in its expenditures on modern equipment have been greater than in any comparable period in our history. Increasing use will be made of technology in the immediate future, including introduction of the most modern data processing equipment which will be integrated with the data systems in use by the F.B.I.

The modern war on crime calls for a critical review of our commercial laws to close up any loopholes that might be exploited by the organized criminal. The house is well aware that the Bankruptcy Act was recently amended to strengthen the hand of the superintendent of bankruptcy in dealing with fraudulent bankruptcies, and I understand that a further revision is being attended to in the Department of the Registrar General. Special bankruptcy investigation squads have been established by the R.C.M.P. in Toronto and Montreal, and in other centres bankruptcy investigations are carried out by the general crime investigation squads.

Perhaps the house will be interested to learn that the R.C.M.P. are now taking steps to implement the proposal to establish a security fraud squad and a central repository of securities regulation information.

Perhaps the greatest difficulty to overcome in the fight against crime is public apathy or indifference. The law enforcement agencies cannot win the struggle against crime alone. Too many Canadians are prepared to accept crime as a natural phenomenon of our society. I can hardly think of a more dangerous development. With this lax attitude organized crime prospers and may spread its tentacles into wide varieties of business which are now free of it. We should not forget that organized crime makes its huge profits by selling its products, whether they be narcotics, liquor or bookmaking services, to members of what we usually describe as the law-abiding public.

The establishment of the R.C.M.P. has been increased from 9,500 in 1965 to nearly 11,000 in 1967. The R.C.M.P. budget has been increased at the same time. In 1965 it was about \$80 million, this year it will be about \$110 million. A new Canadian police college is on the drawing boards and a curriculum is being prepared.

[Mr. Pennell.]

Crime and corrections are non-partisan matters, but I believe it can fairly be said that the government has not been lax in its approach to the problem of crime. The division of the jurisdiction poses a constant problem, of course, but better liaison work is solving the problem.

I now turn to examine the other arm of the department which is concerned in the war against crime. I mean the national parole board and the Canadian penitentiary service. Any meaningful war against crime must also concentrate on ways of getting at the sources of crime and on methods of reforming potential criminals. This is perhaps a more difficult job than even police work is. What we must keep in mind at all times though is that most of those engaging the attention of police from day to day are persons who have already been inmates of penitentiaries. Our criminal repeater problem is very disconcerting. In fact, about 45 per cent of the newcomers to a federal prison in any year have previously been in the same or some other federal prison serving a sentence of two years or more. It is obvious that if we could do something to reform these persons while we have them in custody we would be depriving the police forces of a large body of men who in fact are their best customers. I do not suggest this will be easy.

The year 1967 marks the halfway point in the Canadian penitentiary service's program of institutional development—1963-1973—commonly known as the ten year plan. It is in order at this midway point to announce the accomplishments that have been made in the implementation of this program. During the last fiscal year a new medium security institution was opened at Cowansville, Quebec, together with a specialized institution for the treatment of male and female drug offenders at Matsqui, B.C. Further, during this current fiscal year three more medium security institutions for young offenders and selected male adults will be opened at Springhill, Nova Scotia, Warkworth, Ontario and Drumheller, Alberta. Also a special correctional unit for the most difficult of maximum security inmates will come into operation shortly and afford an opportunity for the penitentiary service to provide a concentrated treatment program for this type of inmate.

The estimates currently being studied provide for the establishing of five community release centres in various cities across Canada, a step which is most significant in filling the void in that transitional period between custody and release and readjustment