

*Supply—Solicitor General*

the high percentage of repeaters. Undoubtedly all he said is correct, but I would like to express the view that the increase in crime, and in particular the high degree of recidivism, must point to the fact that somewhere we have failed and are failing in our rehabilitative policies. I know the main emphasis must be on the individual who commits the crime, but surely according to modern penology we send men into prisons and penitentiaries not for punishment, not for revenge, but for rehabilitation. Yet somewhere along the line we have failed.

It is my belief that one reason we have failed and are still failing is that we think first of construction and second of policy. We have heard from the minister about the ten year program. We are about half way through it now. It has cost and will cost millions and millions of dollars. We are building prisons that are going to stand for 75 or 100 years because they are being built as fortresses, and yet it is quite evident that their construction has no relation to modern policies of penology.

Moreover, we are doing things in construction which other countries say they would never do. In some respects we are including features which authorities in the United States told us that they had wiped out in 1906. I repeat that we are incorporating features in our new prisons that were wiped out over 60 years ago in the United States.

It is quite apparent that in the penitentiary service there is too strong a tendency to base policy on custodial features. It is rather remarkable that in present plans for maximum security here in Canada there are more custodial points, or control points in our newly designed prisons than there are in the super maximum security plans of the United States. Surely you cannot tell me, or try to tell me, that our criminals in Canada are more rabid and more vicious than those in the United States, because I just will not and just cannot believe it. I think we have to get away from this custodial approach. By that I do not mean that there do not have to be control points and discipline. These are bad boys; they are criminals and they have to be treated as such. But hide the custodial features as much as possible, so as to change their minds and, if we can, give them a social consciousness, instead of the anti-social attitude that landed them in the penitentiaries.

I cannot quite understand why it is that we are proceeding with this type of maximum security institution, at the rate and in the

numbers we are contemplating, without knowing what future policies are going to be, what our plans for rehabilitation, probation and parole are going to be. We want to know these things. Because we want to know them we have, first, the joint committee on penitentiaries; but perhaps even more important we have a special royal commission which is studying every facet and phase of our penal system, right from the time people arrive in court, through probation, judgment, penitentiary and parole. Yet here we are proceeding with a type of construction that is going to last 50, 75 or 100 years the way it is planned, even before we get the report and the recommendations with respect to policies from the royal commission.

Before we know how to proceed we are going to have the construction. To me that is putting the cart before the horse. I certainly hope the Solicitor General is going to accept the recommendation of the joint committee, that after he proceeds with the construction of the second maximum security institution just outside Kingston he will not proceed with any more until it can be seen how the first new ones work, and until we get the report of the royal commission and know exactly what the policies and plans on penology are going to be.

I also hope that even with the ones that are constructed and are under construction, changes will be made. I do not mean just the changes that were recommended by the joint committee; I mean other matters as well. You are never going to rehabilitate a man, especially a bad one, if you put him in a state of dissociation, where there are no windows, where there are just the three walls, a ceiling, a floor and a blank door. In other words, he can neither see nor hear. If anyone has even a touch of claustrophobia, God help him.

● (8:50 p.m.)

I fully realize you have to have dissociation. There are occasions with a type of individual when he must be put into dissociation; but no matter how bad a man is, at least let him see out into the corridor and, if possible, let him look outside and see the sunlight during the day and the sky at night. I think every member should go through that so-called correction unit in Montreal. Correction unit?—there is only one thing missing from that place and that is a sign over the front door, "All hope abandon, ye who enter here", because it is concrete with iron bars, and overhead is the catwalk for the armed guards. This is revenge; it is punishment; it is not