

outside, his parents, his employers, his friends, the work situation with which he is capable of coping. You see, we must not simply put him in an institution and wait to cure him, that does not occur. It is necessary at a given moment that he be in a position to, that he be able to accept his personal challenge, and the treatment begun in the institution will continue through the parole service. I think that, actually, we have had cases where we really wished that that gentleman be left on the outside and that we continue the psychotherapy services already started on the inside, and that this could not be done. We could not do it, after all, because there was nobody outside who could look after it. The guy who really wanted it asked us: Could you continue to see me on the outside. This is impossible in our line of work. We see him in the institution, and we cannot continue, because very often, this would be free. I think that we must organize much more the parole service as an assistance clinic, so that parole officers have the possibility of referring to persons specialized in this work, in certain fields, and who could permit him to work in a more precise manner with the freed prisoner.

Now, we are speaking about the Criminal Records Act. Regarding the Criminal Records Act, we do not have enough information on this Act, this is why we have not written too much about it.

Now, we have simply a suggestion to make. We often read in the newspapers that offenders are called all possible names. Firstly, in a Montreal newspaper, for example, there has been a theft. We do not know who committed it, but in the newspaper article, they say that it is a monstrous person, that everyone should cooperate in his arrest and that we should not permit such monsters to live in society. You see, the offender, when he knows it, is taken with his negative image of himself which is increased by the newspapers. I think that we are now driving him into it more. He also believes that society despises him, that society rejects him. Therefore what we propose is that it be possible to prohibit newspapers from making such unfavourable publicity against persons. You see, there are some acts which are improper. There are some acts which are offensive. I therefore think that we sometimes dislike a person, but no one is really repugnant if we consider the situation in its proper perspective, the perspective of rehabilitation. I believe that we force the criminal to believe that society does not want to be open to him, does not want to accept him, does not want to recognize him for what he is, and that the mass media makes him sink deeper into that negative image and that, in time, he can only feel rejected and simply no longer has the means to cope with it, and therefore is completely discouraged. Maybe I'm talking too much, I don't know.

Senator Flynn: No, no, go ahead.

Mr. Thomas: Sharing of responsibilities on the question of parole. We are recommending that the provincial parole boards be independent, that provinces administer their own parole matters, that National Parole Service and Provincial Parole Boards be separate. Very often, the parole people do not know the provincial service people very well, because the services are sharply separated, at the level of the parole services, we give the national service the responsibility for people who are in provincial prisons. Let us say that you have, I do not know how to describe it, a passing settlement and the parole people are

always bothered by the fact that they must look after people from provincial prisons, and it is necessary for the services to be truly separate.

Senator Flynn: Why are they bothered by looking after people?

Mr. Thomas: Well, very often, the people who come into provincial prisons have about three months, four months, six months, and we really cannot work with those offenders in a provincial prison as much as in a federal prison.

Thirdly, we only have a small amount of information about those offenders.

Senator Flynn: This is not the same problem. Therefore you are working towards rehabilitation, and you find that this is a very different problem at the penitentiary level?

Mr. Thomas: Because of the sentence and time, and also because of the staff available in a provincial institution, at least in Quebec, and to be truly able to have information on that prisoner. Therefore, the officer must work with an individual that he does not know well, who spent six months in an institution, and who very probably will return to crime unless it is someone who did not pay a parking ticket, or a traffic ticket.

Senator Flynn: Why do you say that he is more likely to return to crime in a provincial institution? I do not see the distinction. It appears somewhat artificial to me.

Mr. Thomas: By experience, most of the time, in the provincial prisons you usually have the 18, 19 or 20 year-olds as a general rule, because the older offender will commit more serious offences, and will be prevented only in a provincial prison, and he will be imprisoned in a federal institution.

Perhaps there is someone who wishes to reply to this question?

Mr. Belanger: I think that, according to the view that we are proposing, it appears that we wish the continuation of treatment, or a continuity of action, for the offender. This is the reason that one of the things we are suggesting is a somewhat more active integration of parole within the treatment programs in the institutions. If we see that in this manner, we wonder how, at the provincial level, we can carry out this type of continuity of treatment, precisely because of that division.

Senator Flynn: You are saying something which I accept: you are saying that the fact of dealing with someone who is sentenced to only a few months does not give enough time to study his file, and to truly forecast the conditions of parole.

Mr. Belanger: Yes.

Senator Flynn: Like we do in the case of someone who is sent to penitentiary, and I agree. But, are we not better off to have something for those people than to have nothing at all?

Mr. Belanger: Yes; we believe that parole should exist, but if there is to be an integration, it should be from A to Z. We believe that, to follow the view that we are suggesting, namely, the continuity of treatment and a training program, and the re-education of the prisoner, because re-education is entrusted to the provincial authorities, and