

is. However, quite cheerfully, two years ago we voted for the massacre of thousands of human beings by agreeing in principle to the abortion legislation. And to think that we are not satisfied yet and that now we want abortion on request! What an example, Mr. Chairman.

Recognition of homosexuality between consenting adults is not edifying either. The dream of the right hon. Prime Minister to legalize marijuana is another very sad prospect. The Quebec movie industry jumped, just like that, without warning, directly from "La Petite Aurore" to Danielle Ouimet's buttocks, with the support of the Canada Council.

Pop Festivals are authorized and degenerate into bad taste affairs. And I skip a few, Mr. Speaker.

Such decadence is revolting. Therefore, many young people no longer believe in our society. This is extremely unfortunate, but we are all somewhat responsible, particularly those now in office. Let us berth the boat which is on the verge of running adrift.

Authority will no longer be flouted once it has regained its integrity, its unselfishness, its fairness in brief, when real strides have been taken towards implementation of the just society.

● (4:30 p.m.)

[*English*]

Mr. D. R. Tolmie (Welland): Mr. Speaker, first I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Bourassa (Mr. Trudel) and the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) for their excellent speeches.

As a former member of the Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons on Penitentiaries I, of course, have a very intense interest in penal reform. Perhaps this may not be a very appropriate subject to bring up at this time, but I shall speak on it in any event. I feel that a disproportionate amount of the time of the House is consumed on more glamorous and popular issues of the day with the consequence that the public is not made fully aware of the government's policies and the progress that has been made in this most important humanitarian field. The whole question of penal reform has been plagued not by a positive opposition but by a tradition of apathy and indifference. In any democracy where powerful segments of society compete for the public eye and purse, it is most difficult for a very small chorus clamouring for prison reform to be heard and answered. Therefore, at every chance it is of the utmost importance to articulate forcibly the need for reform and thereby gain public support for the implementation of same.

● (4:40 p.m.)

For those in our society still clinging to the philosophy that a prisoner is incarcerated as punishment or for the protection of society and is beyond redemption, the cold economic argument that penal reform whereby more prisoners can be released more quickly with a consequential saving to the taxpayer, has much appeal. Let us explore this argument.

The Address—Mr. Tolmie

We are spending over \$70 million to improve the quality of our federal penitentiaries. In addition, there is the enormous operating cost of our present facilities. It costs this country approximately \$3,500 a year to maintain one prisoner, and when you add the cost of keeping his dependants as well as the loss of his productivity while in prison, it is estimated that it costs this nation about \$6,000 a year per prisoner. We have about 7,200 inmates in federal prisons alone. Thus it is clearly evident that if correctional reform reduces this prison population, a tremendous saving will accrue to the Canadian taxpayer.

In my opinion, transcending this monetary consideration as a reason for penal reform is the humanitarian concept that society as a whole has a moral responsibility for a minority of its members who, in many cases, for reasons of heritage, fate and environment beyond their control, have become outcasts and a menace to their fellows. As a nation with a social conscience we must endeavour to restore their self respect and lift them from their degradation. As the concern for this small helpless group matures and flowers a most beneficial result can be achieved. In penal reform, this stirring in man's conscience of the realization that the more fortunate must help the less can grow in wider human relations until man acknowledges that the strong and successful elements in our society have a duty and responsibility to the weak and unfortunate. Thus, on humanitarian grounds alone correctional reform is a most worthwhile objective.

The relatively recently recognized concept in Canada of a rehabilitative approach as opposed to an exclusively custodial system is now the cornerstone of the federal correctional policy. Thus, the entire philosophy of the federal government is directed to achieving the optimum degree of treatment, and the basic objective of the correctional system is the attempt to reform the offender and return him to society as a reclaimed, productive, integrated and law abiding citizen. My further remarks will show how this and former governments have had a systematic comprehensive program to effect these results by wielding the weapons, among others, of new physical facilities, increased training programs, research commissions and aftercare services such as probation and parole.

The new Penitentiary Act brought into force on April 1, 1962, represented a complete revision that was intended to be consistent with the enlightened rehabilitative approach to the problem of penitentiary operations. It completely re-organized the administration and set up the three main regions of Quebec, Ontario, and the western region. The Atlantic provinces were organized as sub-regions.

It was soon recognized that present facilities were not adequate to carry out a comprehensive program, and the government is now involved in an extensive program of institutional construction. A ten year program was started in 1963 and it is proposed to furnish each regional penitentiary district with the following basic facilities: one, a reception centre; two, a special detention unit; three, a maximum security unit; four, medium and minimum facilities; five, a psychiatric unit; six, prerelease hostels to help those inmates who are nearing the end of