

cannot be perfect if there is that kind of glaring stupidity which brings the whole system into disrepute.

The third myth is that all prisoners are capable of rehabilitation. That is demonstrably false. There is an element of psychopathic behavior amongst the inmates of our institutions. Those of us who have practised law, and in particular criminal law, know of it. There are people who have no conscience, who have no feeling of remorse for anything they do, and have no capability to restrict their criminal activity. They make up 10 per cent to 20 per cent of our prison population. It is time we did something to examine that element, to learn why these people behave the way they do, and to find out if there is anything we can do about it.

One of the experts in this field is a man from British Columbia, Dr. Hare. He has written an internationally accepted text on the subject, "Psychopathy: Theory and Research." He worked in our institutions in B.C. for some ten years. Here is what he has to say, as reported in the *Vancouver Province* of February 17 last:

"The fact is, the penitentiary service doesn't really have a rational, integrated treatment program. Many of their rehabilitation programs are poorly organized, makeshift and frequently fadish," he said. "They have the experts but not the expertise to deal with criminals, particularly psychopathic ones."

● (1630)

Hare and his research associates are attempting to develop a model experimental program for the modification of psychopathic behaviour. It would involve a combination of behaviour, drug, and milieu therapy carried out over a period of several years.

He says its unlikely to be carried out. A year ago he contacted the Solicitor General's office about funds and was later visited by a member of his staff. Since then he has heard nothing and assumes they are not interested.

I know the minister's answer is that there are psychiatric opportunities set up but this is a new and interesting departure. This is a specialist in the psychology of psychopaths. This is the kind of new approach that needs to be taken in penology but it is not being taken because we are stuck with traditional attitudes. We can afford to spend money on Montreal bikers apparently making wooden ducks, or homosexual handbooks published in Vancouver, so we can surely afford money for intensive scientific research into the workings of the brains of people who are deeply troubled by psychopathic behaviour.

The other area that is not being followed up is the early identification of this kind of behaviour within the public school system. I am, not saying that they need to be typed or segregated, but most people who are knowledgeable in this field tell us that there are certain personality traits in young children which can identify, once they get into the elementary school system, probable future psychopaths. The problem will not go away if the harsh reality of it is ignored, but we are not doing anything in that area of research and the bill offers no new departures in terms of penology.

As I indicated before, there is no program by any government that is going to work toward public confidence. If there are any more cases Garry Head or those mentioned by the hon. member for Scarborough East, we are going to go back into the dark ages of penal reform. I urge the minister to be cautious of the manner in which these

Parole Act

things are issued. The screening process is important. More money must be provided for research before any progress can be made in this field. I can understand the appointment of more members to the Parole Board and I can appreciate the fact that it should be regionalized. It is clear that decisions were being made too far away from the persons concerned. However, this bill is really innocuous and goes no distance toward the co-ordinated thrust that has to be made into this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that there is not more public confidence in rehabilitation, but in a way I can understand and sympathize with the approach of the newspapers. They display an element of sensationalism and seem to be hypnotized by every event but this can be understood in the light of the glaring errors like those in the Head case and the fellow who ran off with his LIP grant. These cases certainly undermine public confidence.

By his remarks, the hon. member for Scarborough East seemed to favour cutting down on parole. That is a simplistic approach, Mr. Speaker, and I do not agree with it. We can still be progressive while being practical and realistic. We know that there is a percentage of those people within our institutions who when released, because of their psychopathic behaviour and psychopathic nature, will again commit crimes so we should realize that an effort should be made to identify those people early in life. We have to spend money on research and perhaps we have to modify their behaviour. It seems to me that until we tackle that problem, we are not getting to the guts of the penal system.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, Bill C-191 now before the House aims at amending the Parole Act. This bill amounts to a very simple thing, to increase the number of National Parole Board members in order to expedite the work, thus increasing its efficiency, according to the minister.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that a clear-headed person cannot object to the principle of parole. The fact that planes crash once in a while is no reason to abolish aviation and it is not because some criminals benefitted from Parole Act lenience by relapsing into Crime that we should abolish the Parole Act.

This being said, as a basic principle, it nevertheless remains that day after day we realize, thanks to the statistics supplied to the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs and also by the newspapers even on other subjects, that the Parole Act is perhaps not what we need to meet current needs.

● (1640)

Certainly, in order to solve the problem of crime in Canada, which is becoming a major problem, we need more than just a parole act. This must be tied to the social causes which create crime, which make criminals, including the family environment. Indeed, the social environment, often full of injustices, incites people to commit burglary or assault and robbery, and these individuals finally find themselves before a criminal court to be condemned. In many cases, and rightly so, it is society itself