

responsibility that is upon us, because we are the ones who have the jurisdiction. I then said if you feel that you should discharge the responsibility, say that you will not attempt to discharge it until there is a judicial finding beforehand that there are what you consider proper grounds.

Mr. McIVOR: Mr. Chairman, there are three points I should like to discuss. An announcement has been made respecting the appointment of a commissioner to supervise the penitentiaries. Those of us who are intensely interested in the care of those who make mistakes now have hope that the findings of the commission which were made public about seven years ago will now be put into practice. I commend the minister for the appointment of the commissioner; it shows that we are going to get action.

When the minister's estimates were before the committee last year he said he commended a practice whereby, when a man has served a certain length of time in a penitentiary, it was better not to enforce his serving the complete time. He approved letting the prisoner out a little early, so that the prisoner would feel somewhat more sympathetically inclined toward the country of his birth or adoption. At that time I mentioned the cases of two men. I can tell the minister to-day that those two men are out, and that they are behaving as respectable citizens. They are making good, and looking after their families. To-day I shall give him the names of two others whom I hope to have out in the near future. I have just as much confidence in these two men, although they did bad things.

I believe our penitentiaries have been improving in the teaching of trades to the prisoners. But it is not enough to have a trade, as the minister well knows. I have in mind a young man who was confined in Stony Mountain penitentiary who, upon his release, was in a position to earn eighty cents an hour as a carpenter. I was able to get him a job. He told his employer where he had been, where he had learned his trade, and the situation seemed hopeful. However, in the fall of the year the young man got the urge to make more money. He seemed to think he was not making it fast enough, with the result that he got into more trouble, and he is back in the penitentiary. The minister will agree with me that a trade is not enough to make a man.

In passing, let me pay tribute to the chaplain service in the penitentiaries. They are just as important as any other officials in those institutions. But a young man must have some outlook in life greater than a call for money, or a call for the satisfaction of his

lower nature. He must see Him who alone can help him to live right. If he does that, his trade will help him.

May I commend the minister for something concerning which he has been criticized, namely the way he handled the espionage incident. I should have been disappointed had the minister, when appointing the commission, told it how it was to act. The minister was not responsible for the manner in which the men were arrested or detained. That was the way the commission thought best to have it done.

When the Prime Minister appoints a cabinet minister, he does not tell that minister in detail how he must act. The man is accepted, and put on his own resources. That is why we have so many ministers who think for themselves and act honestly without supervision by the Prime Minister. They are to be commended for this.

There are organizations in Canada which condemn the government for the way in which the espionage affair was handled, and for the unveiling of that dastardly thing which, if left unhindered, would have undermined the best in our country, namely the loyalty of our citizens. While perhaps I might have liked to see them treated in another way, I believe the minister is to be commended for what he did.

Others have been arrested without their crimes being made known to them. I have known men who were arrested without being told what their crimes had been. Perhaps they were not clear enough in the head to understand at the time of their arrest; but they found out later on.

These are things for which I commend the minister. I approve his treatment of prisoners who have served long terms in the penitentiaries. I still take the stand that if a man is a criminal he should be in; but when he has ceased to be a criminal, the sooner he is out the better for him and all concerned.

Mr. DIFENBAKER: I am sure the introduction by the last hon. member of the subject of espionage did not please the minister too well, because I have no doubt he wishes to have his estimates passed. That is one subject we discussed on another occasion, and I trust too much praise will not be given the government for its handling of the espionage affair. If that were so, it would be necessary to discuss the matter somewhat further.

My remarks to-day will have reference to the judiciary. During the last two years how many appointments have been made of members of the bar over sixty years of age, and over sixty-five years of age? I am informed that a gentleman has been appointed to a