

Supply—Solicitor General

to the principle of correction to grace our institutions with the name "correctional institutions". In my opinion, and possibly in the opinion of the minister, they are not correctional institutions. They are now, as they have been for 100 years, punitive institutions. We are proposing to replace buildings which are 100 years old or more with new buildings which are not much better.

Though we may replace the buildings, unless we change the principle under which we have operated we shall continue to have, if not the worst, one of the worst penal and correctional systems in the western world. It is a system which gives Canada the dubious honour of having the highest recidivism rate in the western world. It has been estimated that 85 per cent of those entering our penal institutions will return for a second or third time. As far as I can see, nothing that the government is doing or that the minister is proposing will change this situation.

As found on page 1217 of *Hansard* for June 6, 1947, the minister said:

The penitentiary service, like many other agencies in similar fields, has experienced considerable difficulty in recruiting adequate staff, especially professionals in the psychiatric, psychological and sociological disciplines, to bring about changing treatment and training programs being introduced into its existing institutions and those planned for its new treatment centres.

It is not surprising that we are experiencing difficulties. As the minister said, every institution that needs professionals of the disciplines he enumerated is experiencing difficulties. But other institutions or organizations needing them have established some system of grants for training. The understanding is that those who accept grants will come back to the institution which provides them. If we want psychiatrists we must do that. We must go to the medical schools and say to those who are to graduate: If you want to be psychiatrists, particularly psychiatrists who will work in correctional institutions, we will give you a grant to train with the condition that you work for us. We have nothing like that, and the results are obvious. They have been shown to us in answers to questions that I and other hon. members have asked.

Though the psychiatrist at Kingston is classified as a full-time psychiatrist I do not think that we have in fact a single, full-time psychiatrist in our correctional institutions.

Mr. Pennell: As of this year we have two full-time psychiatrists.

Mr. Orlikow: Where?

[Mr. Orlikow.]

Mr. Pennell: There are two full-time psychiatrists at Kingston. We added another full-time psychiatrist at Kingston this year.

Mr. Orlikow: I presume that the minister means that another psychiatrist has been added in addition to Dr. Scott. However, I understand that Dr. Scott conducts a private clinic and a private practice as well. I would not consider him full-time.

I wish to repeat publicly so as to have it on the record something I said to the minister privately, because I am prepared to stand publicly behind what I say in private. The views which Dr. Scott expressed in newspaper interviews during the discussion of the Steven Truscott case were completely unprofessional and unwarranted. One who works in a correctional institution and who interviews inmates as Dr. Scott interviewed Steven Truscott has, in all common decency, no right to make the kind of comments which Dr. Scott was reported to have made. I know that in subsequent statements reported in the newspapers he maintained that he had not made the original statement, but if he did it was wrong of him to do so.

If we are to break down the circle whereby people commit crimes, are apprehended, charged, tried, sentenced, sent to prison, serve their sentences and are released only to commit another crime, we must make a major breakthrough. Surely there has been enough experience in other jurisdictions to show how we can break out of this circle. One way is to have a professional staff to deal with those who get into trouble. We are not attracting professionals to our penal service simply because we do not really believe in having them. I know that the minister can say all the right things and the commissioner can speak of how they want such professionals but the fact is, as I have said before, that we do not back up our words with money. We do not provide grants with which to attract psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers to our institutions.

I have already said that one way of attracting these professionals is to give them training grants with the proviso that on completing their training they shall work in the institution which has given the grant. Though we may have had some professionals in the women's institution at Kingston, for example, the authorities make it clear that they do not really believe in the kind of work these people do. I will not repeat ad nauseam the testimony that some of these professionals gave before the parliamentary committee, but the former