

It shows, with somewhat shocking clarity, just how close the proposed new federal prison would be to built-up residential areas of Saint John.

I made the first appeal, on behalf of my constituents, in question form to the minister; on July 9, 1975, I asked him to change the location, as recorded in *Hansard*, page 7390. On September 19, in response to the overwhelming opposition expressed in answer to my questionnaire, I wrote to the minister, saying that, "You may adjust your plans in accordance with the citizens' wishes." On September 30 I had a phone call from a reliable source—I am sure the minister agrees that the source is reliable—saying that the minister never received any letter of protest from me. This took place 11 days after the letter was sent by hand to the minister's office. The letter was acknowledged by a member of his staff on September 24, 1975. The minister is reputed to have said that since he did not read the Saint John papers, he was not aware of the protests. The message had been delivered, but the mail did not reach his desk apparently.

Again on Thursday last I asked the minister if he would reconsider, as reported in *Hansard* at page 8260, and again the answer was no.

On behalf of those who live near the proposed site, I say the minister must build elsewhere. Dorchester needs and wants increased employment. I ask the minister to read the *Globe and Mail* of August 25, 1975, and to ask the Minister of State (Fisheries) (Mr. LeBlanc), the representative of that area.

The Blue Mountain minimum security site is still in the hands of the government. Some of the facilities at least are in place. I believe that the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne) has invited the minister to build there. In view of these options, one writer said "This seems completely absurd."

The minister asked for my opinion and my support. I cannot give my support for the location in the west Saint John area. I must ask in the firmest manner that he not authorize the construction in west Saint John, Mace's Bay or Lepreau, unless of course he would be as politically unwise as the advice of Mr. Therien, the federal penitentiary commissioner, would have him be. I ask the minister to look at the October 14, 1975, issue of the *Telegraph-Journal*.

The institutions are wanted and needed in some areas. Accept the invitations. Do not thrust your unwanted presence onto the people of west Saint John.

**Mr. Hugh Poulin (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, may I first assure the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain) that it is the intention of the minister and the department to give every consideration to public opinion in that area. In fact there has been ongoing consultation between all levels of government with respect to this matter.

This matter was raised in the House of Commons during the oral question period on Thursday, October 16. In answer, the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand) indicated that he had not abandoned plans for the construction of a

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penal institution in the Morna neighbourhood in the city of Saint John, New Brunswick, at this point because the government had received approval in principle from the New Brunswick provincial government and from certain persons associated with the government of the city of Saint John. He also indicated that a further meeting of the council of the city of Saint John was to be held shortly and that he would await the decision that would follow that meeting. In fact a meeting of the council of the city of Saint John is to be held in the near future at which our application to purchase property in the Saint John area will be presented.

The five year construction plan of the penitentiary service in the Atlantic provinces provides for the construction of a new maximum security institution in Dorchester, New Brunswick, some medical facilities in Nova Scotia, and the construction of a medium security institution in close proximity to the city of Saint John, New Brunswick.

The penitentiary service believes that there is a need for an institution at close proximity to the city of Saint John as a number of inmates are native to the area and would like to re-establish themselves there upon release. As a result, it is planned to construct a small institution to house approximately 180 inmates in a medium security setting. The inmates who will be incarcerated there will be classified as not dangerous, and with the improved security perimeter system and dynamic security program, the risk of escape will be appreciably reduced. The penitentiary service's experience shows that such an institution does not have a depressing effect on the morale of a community and does not inhibit the normal pursuits and activities of its citizens. The site at present under consideration appears to be suitable for that purpose.

● (2220)

The City of Saint John is being consulted on all aspects of the location and development of the proposed institution. I wish to assure the hon. member that any decision on whether or not to proceed will take into full consideration the outcome of the consultations between the penitentiary service, the federal Department of Public Works, and the Council of the City of Saint John, as well as the outcome of surveys of community opinion. As stated by the Solicitor General in his answer to the question I referred to earlier, if there is overwhelming objection to the site, consideration will be given to abandoning this plan.

I, as a member for this area, the city of Ottawa, have no trouble whatever in obtaining from the council any plans that I need with respect to specific locations, and I suggest to the hon. member that he could obtain the information he needs through a similar channel. I realize that throughout the summer months it is not as easy to obtain information as when the House is in full swing—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. gentleman but the time allotted to him has now expired.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.24 p.m.