

Order Paper Questions

AGASSIZ CORRECTIONAL CAMP ESCAPEES

Question No. 2,381—**Mr. Schumacher:**

1. What were the names of the two prisoners given passes from Agassiz Institution in April of this year to attend a dance and who have not returned?

2. Were these prisoners escorted and, if not, for what reason?

3. In how many cities have fraudulent certified cheques issued by these people turned up?

4. What are the names of the cities in question and what is the amount involved in each case?

5. What is being done to apprehend these people?

6. Were these people in prison on a first offence and, if not, how many offences had each one had previously?

7. What is being done to determine the responsibility for the financial losses incurred by citizens as a result of these fraudulent cheques?

8. What are the qualifications of the person (a) responsible for granting passes to these people (b) recommending passes for these people?

9. What specific action has been taken to prevent further happenings of this nature?

10. What compensation is the government prepared to allow to those who have suffered loss or harm at the hands of those prisoners who are (a) on temporary leave (b) on extended freedom without permission?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): 1. Jeffrey Kinzel and Thomas Schmidt. On March 30, 1973, Kinzel and Schmidt with four other inmates from Agassiz Correctional Camp (minimum security) attended a lecture given by the Ontological Society at the Peter Pan Ballroom, Vancouver. The Ontological Society, a religious philosophy organization, has been working with inmates at Agassiz Camp for some time. During the lecture Kinzel and Schmidt were given permission to go to the washroom. They did not return.

2. Yes.

3 and 4. Unknown. Investigations concerning the commission of such crimes is a provincial responsibility.

5. Upon the inmates' failure to return, the Penitentiary Service escorting officer reported by telephone to his superior who, in turn, alerted the R.C.M. Police detachment. The RCMP immediately placed an all points bulletin with the Vancouver City Police. Further action in respect to the apprehension of these two individuals now rests in the hands of the police.

6. Both inmates were serving their first federal penitentiary term. Inmate Kinzel had three previous convictions. He served two terms in a provincial institution and one six-month suspended sentence on a \$100 bond. Inmate Schmidt had four previous convictions for which he served sentences in Provincial institutions.

[Mr. Dubé.]

7. This is a matter falling within the ambit of responsibility of the Attorneys General of the provinces concerned.

8. (a) The Director, Agassiz Correctional Work Camp has served 24 years with the Canadian Penitentiary Service. He entered the Service at Stoney Mountain Institution in 1949 and became a Staff Training Officer in 1957. In 1964, he was appointed Chief Instructor for the Canadian Penitentiary Service Staff College, New Westminster, B.C. During his service career he successfully completed Penitentiary courses on Management, Supervising, Teaching, and Evaluation and Planning. He was appointed Director, Agassiz Camp in March 1968. (b) The Inmate Training Board, made up of the Director, Administration and Supply Officer and two Classification Officers, is responsible for recommending passes for inmates. The Administration and Supply Officer has been with the Penitentiary Service 14 years. He began his career at British Columbia Penitentiary supervising inmates in the Stores Department. In 1962 he was appointed Assistant Stores Keeper, Mountain Prison. He served as Acting Administration and Supplies Officer, Agassiz Camp in 1969, and has on a number of occasions been Acting Director for the Camp. In 1965 he was ordained a Minister of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. In addition, he has completed courses in Human Development at Douglas College. One of the Classification Officers has been with the Penitentiary Service since 1963 when he was appointed Protestant Chaplain at Agassiz Correctional Work Camp. In 1967 he was appointed to the position he now holds. He is an Arts graduate of the University of British Columbia, where he majored in Psychology. He received his Bachelor of Physiology in 1964. He completed a Human Relations Course at Douglas College in 1972 as well as in-Service courses on Counselling Techniques, Sociology of Deviant Behaviour, Criminology and Penology and Psychotherapy. The other classification officer was employed as an Assistant Classification Officer for a period of three months. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Simon Fraser University and is currently a Classification Officer at Mountain Prison in Agassiz, B.C.

9. The Canadian Penitentiary Service issued a revised Commissioner's Directive on Temporary Absence which directs that group temporary absences to outside functions may only be carried out where satisfactory security arrangements can be made. The Directive also requires institutional authorities to carefully assess the escort needs for such occasions, and to conduct an advance check of the proposed site of the activity, as well as notifying the responsible police force of the intended activity.

10. Save where legal liability exists, there is no authority for payment of compensation other than by obtaining an Order in Council for the making of an ex gratia payment in individual cases of hardship. This matter is under review to determine whether the present situation should be modified, and if so to what extent.