

*Supply—Justice*

a tape recorder and played to the inmate while he is asleep. I have some information on the subject which I should be pleased to show to the minister if he does not already have it. This material was prepared under the direction of Mr. John Locke, public defender of Tulare county, California; Mr. Edgar D. Price, deputy public defender; Mr. Robert C. Lally a former recreational therapist at Porterville and Camarillo state hospital; and Reverend Glenn Peters, minister of the Ivanhoe Presbyterian church.

They helped to develop this particular system of sleep therapy and assisted in an attempt at reformation of people who are in some of their penal institutions in California. The material points out that it has worked to a pretty good degree in so far as inmates who have an alcohol problem are concerned. The result of these experiments indicates that this sort of sleep therapy treatment could also work where a person has a problem or has a desire to escape from reality by being addicted to other things such as narcotics. The prime experiment has been made on people who were drinking quite a bit and were either alcoholics or on the verge of becoming alcoholics.

The survey made of the individuals who had taken this sleep therapy treatment—and I may say that it is completely voluntary; no one is forced to participate in it in the slightest degree; it is completely voluntary on the part of the inmate—which was made in March indicated that 52 per cent of the inmates who took the treatment showed substantial benefit. The latest survey of inmates who were serving sentences of over three months, or an average of 116.3 days, indicated that 72 per cent showed a substantial benefit. This is something which I think might be given serious consideration by the department. As Mr. Locke and Mr. McGee, the director of corrections, say in their letter, extreme caution must be used in instituting such a program, and there must be a great deal of care and planning in the preparation of it; otherwise the inmates will rebel against it and it will not be of any help.

I think this is something that could be discussed, adopted and thought about. If it works to the degree that this information indicates it does in one part of the nation in so far as alcoholics are concerned, then there is every reason to believe that it will work in another part of the country at least in so far as alcoholics are concerned. If it is designed around the psychological imbalance which drives people to become addicted to something or other in order to escape reality, then there is reason to hope that it will work to a limited degree in so far as narcotics are concerned. Also, it will

substantially lessen the effect of alcohol and narcotic addiction upon society and upon our crime rate.

When I mention the question of overcrowding I hope I may be permitted to wander far afield and make reference to an item which I drew to the attention of the house a few weeks ago with respect to the Penitentiary Act. I point out to the minister that although we have dormitories, some of them permanent and some temporary, in corridors, other places and so on—these dormitories have been in existence for some time—I submit to the minister that they are absolutely and completely illegal in so far as the Penitentiary Act is concerned. I am not suggesting that an inmate who is released from the penitentiary is going to take the minister to court because he was housed and had to sleep in a dormitory when the law says that he shall sleep in a cell by himself at night, but I suggest there is room for an improvement in the Penitentiary Act in this particular regard.

I am not a person who has had any experience or grounding in legal matters, but I have discussed this with a couple of lawyers and they are of the opinion that if an inmate was injured in one way or another while sleeping in a dormitory he would have recourse against the crown for damages because he was not properly protected, the law was not strictly followed in providing him with and keeping him in, as the law says, a cell by himself at night. I do not want to see the minister dragged into court and ordered to pay damages to some inmate, but the lawyers with whom I have discussed this have looked into the act, and that is the information they give me. So far such a thing has not happened. We want to prevent the minister from going to jail, but we also want to legalize and regularize that which has been going on for some period of time.

I also ask another question of the minister with respect to penitentiaries as it relates to members of parliament having visited various penitentiaries. We are the ones who enact laws which apply to the operation of our penitentiaries; we are the ones who consider the estimates, as we are considering them now, and attempting to determine whether the approach and the policy used by the minister and his departmental officials are the correct ones or not. Therefore, I made some inquiries as to how many members of parliament had been sufficiently interested in the past to visit some of our federal penal institutions. The answer which I received was to a degree disappointing because, as I said, we are the ones who will be legislating and the ones who are considering the estimates