

Supply—Justice

system there was no place for punishment which is based on nothing more than retribution. They urged too that an offender's rehabilitation should, wherever possible, be effected without placing upon him the stigma of imprisonment. The members of this committee expressed the view that adult probation was the area of correction in Canada where the most significant advance is required to be made. It is my firm belief that if we are to make our prisons centres of reformation, places in which law violators can be reclaimed as useful members of society, a very serious reduction in the prison population has to be brought about.

In Great Britain with its much larger population only 34,000 individuals were given prison terms in 1953. In the same year in Canada, with its much smaller population, 98,000 persons received prison terms. I have no doubt that more recent figures would show a contrast that would be equally startling.

In our penitentiaries in Canada today we have a population of about 6,000 inmates, and in our provincial prisons and institutions a population of approximately 11,000. Over 60 per cent of those sent to prison in Canada each year are sent for the purpose of serving terms of imprisonment for 90 days or less. According to our chief probation officer in the province of Ontario, Mr. Dan Coghlan, probation achieved success in not less than 70 per cent of the cases in our province, and that estimate is a deliberately conservative one. Imprisonment has failed because in 75 per cent of the cases of those admitted to federal penitentiaries and in 65 to 70 per cent of the cases of those admitted to provincial institutions these persons had been incarcerated before. Wherever probation has been experimented with very satisfactory results have been achieved.

In England not so long ago, under the direction of the celebrated Dr. Radzinowicz, the Cambridge department of criminal science conducted a survey of 4,000 adult offenders who had been released from probation a full three years. The group of 4,000 consisted of first, second and multiple offenders. The result was that in the over-all picture 71 per cent were still living as law-abiding citizens. Actually in the case of the first offenders the percentage was 88 per cent.

One of the main difficulties in Canada in the field of probation is the lack of uniformity in the establishment of probation facilities in the various provinces. This is largely due to a lack of funds on the part of some of the provinces, and I suppose it is partly due to a lack of interest, perhaps an apathy or indifference, on the part of the public.

[Mr. Maloney.]

I should like our government to give some thought to the possibility of easing the financial burden on the provinces either by direct grants or—and this might be the more orderly solution—by the assumption on a national basis of full responsibility in the field of probation, as the government has already done in the field of parole. So closely related are the two areas of probation and parole that it occurs to me the machinery of our national board of parole, which is now really just beginning to function, could be utilized in the event of the assumption by the federal authority of full responsibility in this field.

One hesitates to suggest to a government that is already required to spend so much money in the public interest that it should spend further sums, but in my opinion there would be a long term economy involved in the immediate expenditure of whatever sums are needed to make our probation system more uniform.

In Ontario, where the number released annually on probation has increased from about 2,500 in 1952 to about 7,000 in 1958, the figures are very startling. The total number under probation supervision in Ontario in 1958 was 12,599. Of this figure the number who were actually placed on probation during the year 1958 was 7,107. But it is the economic benefits that are collateral to this that I find so impressive.

The total amount of restitution collected from probationers following criminal convictions in Ontario in the year 1958 was \$71,295. The total amount of support money collected for deserted wives and children from offenders who were released on probation—people who otherwise might have been the subject of welfare benefits—was \$2,396,525.64. Perhaps the most striking figure of all is represented by the total amount of earnings of adult probationers in Ontario in 1958. Their earnings were in the vicinity of \$15 million.

In the light of these figures I think it worth while to contrast the cost of probation to the state and the cost of imprisonment.

The cost of probation per individual per year in Ontario is roughly estimated to be in the vicinity of \$250. Some might give a lesser figure than that, but I am sure a lesser figure would fail to make allowance for some of the incidental expenditures that are involved in maintaining a proper probation system. It is roughly estimated, then, to be in the neighbourhood of \$250. The cost of keeping an offender in prison, on the other hand, will range from between \$1,500 to \$2,500, depending upon the institution and upon other factors. If each of the 7,000 Ontario