

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

farm annex no Jaycee unit has yet been put together. Encouragement has been given by the Moncton unit, but unfortunately one has not yet come into existence. Perhaps as a result of my encouragement and that of the minister, such a unit will be established there.

• (10:10 p.m.)

A more remarkable program was begun in May of this year, when members of the Jaycees unit began to provide transportation for day parolees from Dorchester to Moncton. Here we have volunteers, young businessmen from the Moncton community area, leaving their homes every morning at 6 o'clock or 6.30, driving the 20 or 30 miles to Dorchester, picking up an inmate and bringing him back to Moncton. The inmate goes to work for the day at Moncton, and then at the end of the day, around 6.30 or 7 p.m., he is driven back to the penitentiary. One man in particular single-handedly carried on chauffeuring for a month to six weeks. Since then others have joined him. They are driving up to 500 miles a week at their own expense, and the whole thing has been a considerable undertaking. A week ago Saturday I had the opportunity of spending part of the day with one inmate who was participating in this program. I had the pleasure of his company when I attended the banquet that evening, and I can tell the House that this kind of work is beyond the normal kind of rehabilitation that has been carried on in our penitentiaries.

These volunteers from the Moncton Jaycees are making a unique contribution to the rehabilitation of men who found no hope but who, through this kind of assistance, are now finding in many ways immense hope. To give just one example, of 30 members of the Jaycees unit since released, only five have returned. That may seem a large figure to some who are uninformed about penitentiaries; but for those who know that the recidivism rate in Canada is around 75 to 80 per cent, the figure of 25 men who are "making it" out on the street, so to speak, is an astronomical one.

May I congratulate the minister and his officials for the work they have done to assist the Jaycees unit, and I hope that their good work will not stop there. We know that this kind of social education is a must, and that there must be some basic citizen interest if we are to further the work of rehabilitation. For too long have our penitentiaries operated

on the basis of punishment and revenge, offering very little in the way of long-term protection to society and in terms of rehabilitation.

The Dorchester Jaycees, a reflection of the Moncton Jaycees unit, have shown the way through the group operating in the penitentiary and the day parole program. They have made plans for the future acquisition of a halfway house, with which I hope this government will assist, as well as for eventually providing transportation for prisoners with the object of integrating them into the community of Moncton and beyond. I look forward to hearing the minister reply to this extended question.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for raising this question. May I also thank him both for the remarks that he made about the work of the Jaycees in Moncton and for the remarks he made about the correctional services and their part of the program. The object and the task of the whole correctional services system in this country must be the effective restoration of the inmate, the person with whom they are concerned, so that he can usefully participate in society as a normal citizen, playing his full part. You can express it in many ways, but that is what it comes to. To do this, it is quite clear that the best results are achieved when you have the full co-operation of the offender and of the correctional services personnel—that is, the penitentiary or the Parole Board, as the case may be—as well as of the local community. Tonight the hon. member has drawn attention to the importance and effectiveness of the part played by the local community.

This kind of program has been extended in various ways to different parts of the country. Fifteen or 20 different types of groups and societies have offered assistance. Bodies like the John Howard Society, the Elizabeth Fry Society and similar better known societies, as well as many other church groups and local service groups, have got together to this end.

Some groups have got together, without having any other background of organization, and in an effective and co-ordinated way have the full guidance and proven co-operation of the institutions, correctional service or parole board as the case may be. We have gone much further in utilizing this service and are trying to encourage it by every means possible. It becomes important not only