

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*): Any presentations in this respect are made jointly, one might say. A consideration of the subject is jointly between our own department and the Department of Justice. Actually, Mr. Curran is going to be in New York next week and has been invited to inspect a new type of treatment centre in New York at that time.

Your question is why it does not come under this department? I do not think it is a question particularly for me, because while statements have been made by the Minister of Justice, I do not think I have had any addressed to me.

Mr. WINCH: As long as somebody is doing something, I have no objection; but I was just wondering why it did not come under your department.

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*): It is the administration of the act; but the enforcement and the incarceration of people who are charged actually comes under the Department of Justice.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Curran, would you like to elaborate at all?

Mr. CURRAN: Mr. Chairman, I will try to be brief. The R.C.M.P., by administrative arrangement with our department, looks after the criminal enforcement side of the Opium and Narcotic Drugs Act. Our responsibility is primarily to the legal prescription of drugs for medical and scientific use.

As was pointed out earlier, it is an offence to be in possession of a drug other than with a doctor's prescription—to put it as simply as I can. The people charged with offences under the Opium and Narcotic Drugs Act, to the extent that they are addicted and are in jails or penitentiaries, would come rather within the Department of Justice, as far as the measures are concerned for their treatment and rehabilitation.

Mr. WINCH: Do I gather from what you say now, then, that your department is only interested in the legal sale and the possession of drugs; but if a person is an addict because of illegally having it, then it is strictly a matter for the Department of Justice? The treatment or policies in that regard are not your responsibility?

Mr. CURRAN: In reply to Mr. Winch's question, Mr. Chairman, I would not say that we have no interest—far from it. The jurisdictional responsibility would lie with the Department of Justice, to the extent that the individual is in custody through the commission of a crime.

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*): I think Mr. Winch mentioned Dr. Halliday. He is the medical director of the narcotic foundation of British Columbia, and he is also chairman of our working party studying narcotic addiction, which comes under the committee on mental health, which is an advisory committee to the department.

The CHAIRMAN: You will have an opportunity, gentlemen, to carry on this discussion at 9:30 on Thursday. The place of meeting will be announced. We are a little uncertain as to where we will meet: we may lose this committee room to the Railway Committee. Motion to adjourn?

Agreed.