

S.O. 21

PENITENTIARIES

ESCAPE OF DANGEROUS INMATES WHILE RELEASED ON DAY
PASSES

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian public has become the unwilling participant in penal therapy experiments that allow axe murderers and sex killers to roam the streets on so-called day passes. For the second time this week a dangerous inmate has escaped custody. This time Giovanni Fasciano walked away from an unarmed social therapist while strolling down a Montreal street. Fasciano has a history of attempted escapes. In fact three years ago, following his first escape, hospital officials described him as a dangerous schizophrenic.

The questions which must be answered by the House are simple. One, why was the inmate allowed outside the hospital without wearing manacles or other restraining devices? Two, why was his attendant not armed? Three, why bother providing extensive security in a jail or hospital for the criminally insane if prisoners are to be turned loose on the streets?

● (1110)

These two incidents have given all Canadians reason to question the fundamental ability of our prison security system to do its job. It is hard to imagine any justification for allowing day passes to such violent and escape-prone inmates.

It is sheer lunacy to allow such prisoners on the street without security measures that are at least comparable to those of the institutions housing the inmates.

* * *

EDUCATION

NATIONAL ACADEMIC COMPETITION WON BY MANITOBA HIGH
SCHOOL

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, all too often in recent years Canadians, as a result of increasing urbanization, have come to assume that the good life was to be found only in the larger cities. One of the unfortunate results of this pro big city attitude was the development of a prevailing philosophy that excellence too was synonymous with such large urban centres and, as a result, many young people, often with their parents' encouragement, have migrated from our smaller western communities in order to secure what they believe to be a superior education.

Many of us who were educated primarily in the smaller western communities, many of us who taught in the educational institutions located in such centres, and many of us who, as parents, have encouraged our own children to remain at home for their education, have always denied that bigger necessarily means better. Those of us of that mind are particularly delighted to hear that a national academic competition, the "Reach for the Top" program, has been won by a high school which has an enrolment of only 212 students in its Grade 7 to Grade 12 program, and which is located in a smaller Manitoba

community with a population of approximately 1,100 residents.

The students of Deloraine Collegiate have proven without doubt that educational institutions need not be large nor need they be located in large urban centres in order to be of a superior quality.

* * *

HUMAN RIGHTS

ARMENIAN MASSACRE—SUGGESTED DECLARATION OF DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Mr. Speaker, it is time that this House reconsider the Armenian question. You will recall that on March 27, 1980, the Legislature of Ontario unanimously adopted a resolution that said in part that, on behalf of the people of Ontario, that Legislature "requests the Government of Canada to officially recognize and condemn the atrocities committed by the Government of Turkey upon the Armenian people who were victims of persecution and genocide during World War I."

The Legislature of Ontario also stated, on behalf of the people of Ontario, that it urged the Government of Canada "to make appropriate representations to the General Assembly of the United Nations to recognize and condemn the Armenian genocide and to express abhorrence of such actions as being in violation of the basic standards of human rights and decency now embodied in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights."

The Ontario Legislature, on behalf of the people of Ontario, also recommended to the Government of Canada "that it designate April 24 in every year hereafter throughout Canada as a day of remembrance for the Armenian community, as it has been by the Armenian people for many years in memory of fellow Armenians who suffered such crimes."

A similar resolution was passed on April 10 in the National Assembly in Quebec.

We should act.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member's time has expired.

* * *

IMMIGRATION

GUIDELINES AFFECTING REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, Canada's immigration policy is losing some of its humanitarian principles through administrative decisions that erode the intent of our immigration law and regulations.

On June 29, 1983, the former Minister of Employment and Immigration promised to have a review and report by the fall on the concept of the family as used by his Department. It had been found that our rules were often being so interpreted as to exclude people whose close family ties are all here in Canada.