

Mr. Faguy: I would have to be careful not to venture into a domain that is not mine. I have not personally researched this area, although I know other people have looked into it. Many people evidently feel that there are many, many reasons for the increase in crime, and it is not simply because of the correctional service system. There are many, many other aspects.

I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, if I may, that perhaps some adequate answer on this—

Senator Buckwold: I will file the statistics, if you wish.

The Chairman: I think the question of the increase in crime could properly be directed to Commissioner Higgitt of the RCMP, who will be with us tomorrow.

I might also say at this time that there is another school of thought which says that the deterrence to crime is not the punishment but the possibility of being caught and convicted. This gets into police areas, however. In so far as those figures might show that there has been an increase in crime, this would properly be something for us to look into, and I suggest we can go into it with Mr. Higgitt.

Senator Buckwold: This is in fact related.

The Chairman: Would you have your article and be ready for Mr. Higgitt when he arrives?

Senator Buckwold: Yes.

Senator Thompson: You mentioned psychiatric treatment and a psychiatric hospital to be located near the community. Are you satisfied with the location of the penitentiary?

Mr. Faguy: No, I am not, sir. Again, I can refer to the Mohr Report. One of the basic concepts and principles expressed there, and also in the correctional and criminology associations—every one of them recommends that we be located in or near the community. The minister has stated publicly that we accept these principles, and therefore we hope to build in or near the community. The problems created by having this institution located 50 or 60 miles away from the nearest town are unbelievable. It prevents us from carrying out the full program we would like to. Especially with the new emphasis on community oriented programs, if you have to travel 60 miles a day, or you have people come in and they have to travel 60 miles, winter and summer, to participate in the program, it is very difficult. What we have done in the program is this. First, we accept this principle that they should be in or near the community, but in order not to have to wait for years to build an institution we have moved ahead and provided for an increase in correctional release centres or community correctional centres, we call them now. Two weeks ago we added one in Calgary. We are going to have one in Regina, one in Hamilton, one in Halifax, and one in Edmonton.

So we have added five other correctional centres. I have mentioned briefly that we are looking at another unit somewhere in Vancouver. So we are more and more trying to bring the inmates out into the community, through small centres, release centres,

where they can go and work on assignments in the daytime and come back at night and are under our supervision. They are, in fact, institutions.

Senator Thompson: I was interested in connection with Drumheller. Over the weekend, I was reading an article about this small community. It seems to me that the person in charge of Drumheller rather liked the idea of a small community, where the people had become accustomed to inmates; whereas in the larger community they had difficulty about that. I wondered if you had followed his thinking yourself, or if you preferred to be in a larger centre.

Mr. Faguy: Everything considered, I would still prefer to be near a large centre, for employment opportunities, educational facilities, availability of community workers, volunteers, et cetera. There are many reasons in favour of being in or near the community.

I might say, however, in passing, that we are very pleased with the community in Drumheller. They have done extremely well for us. The mayor and his wife, the senior citizens, indeed, all the citizens have participated and have co-operated; they have provided employment for the inmates. Even though sometimes the unemployment rate was high in Drumheller, they kept some of the inmates on the job. I must say that we were very pleased—but it is an exception.

Senator Thompson: They are good people there.

Mr. Faguy: Yes. Do you come from near that area?

Senator Thompson: No, but I have been there.

Senator Hastings: It is just that he is an excellent senator.

The Chairman: This self-serving heresy will stop, please.

Senator Fergusson: Do we not sometimes find a different attitude in the community? I can remember down in New Brunswick, when the provincial reformatory was going to be built, the community resented it very much. They thought that they should be able to sell their houses to the government, because they felt that the value of their houses was being diminished. Do you find this in other communities?

Mr. Faguy: The community will naturally tend to react against locating a penal institution in their midst. I think this is a general reaction. We have a responsibility there to inform the public, to inform the people as to what it is we are going to do, ahead of time, as to what the programs will be. We are able to cite examples of the success of other institutions we have had in our communities. I think it is a matter of public relations, or public information. As we get, hopefully, more and more successful with our programs, I think the public will come to accept this location of institutions near or in communities.

Might I also say that we had a public attitude survey carried out some time ago. I must admit that, to my surprise, I found the survey indicated that the majority of the population was rather favourable