

### Other recommendations

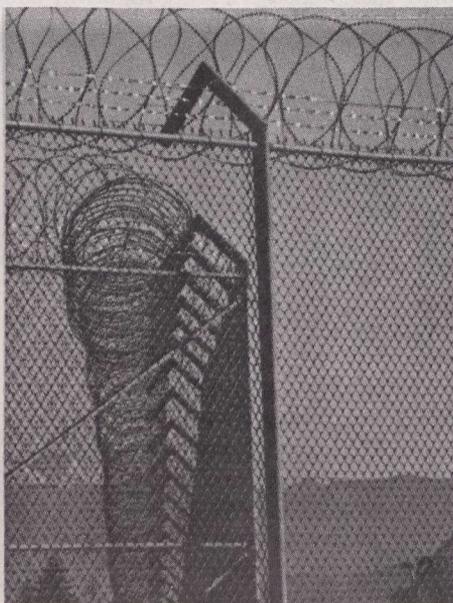
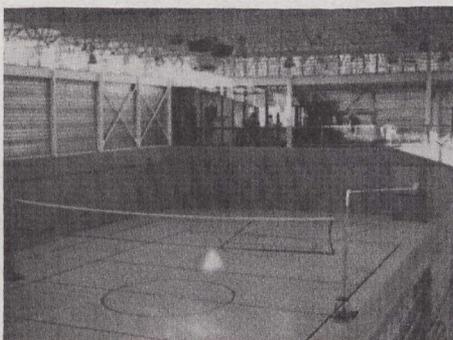
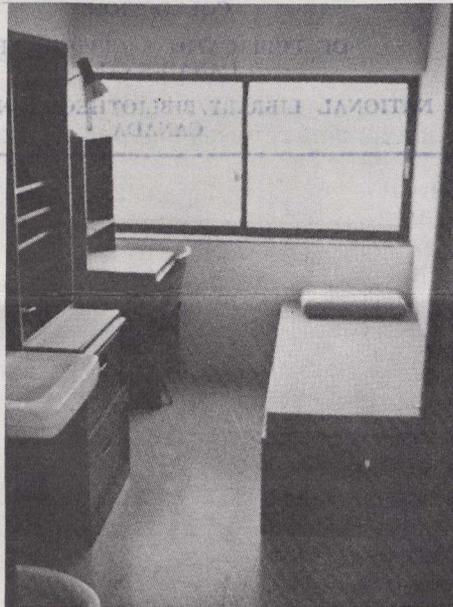
Some of the recommendations that were accepted by the Minister included:

- The appointment of an Inspector General of Penitentiaries, who would report directly to the Commissioner, to inspect institutions and investigate irregularities. Criminal investigations would be referred to the police.
- Creation of segregation review boards to ensure there is no abuse of solitary confinement.
- Construction of smaller institutions (200-250 inmates) which may be clustered together with several shared functions. The Government has already announced that nine new penitentiaries should be ready by December 1979 and, that over the next five years, 24 new institutions "designed to respond better to specific needs" would be built.
- Improvement of food in institutions; and the endorsement of common dining, though this may not be applicable in all present institutions.
- The wearing of name-identification by all staff members and all inmates of maximum and medium security penitentiaries, which will be implemented within two months.
- Probationary period for new employees will be one year after the completion of the initial course, which will include both instruction at staff colleges and on-the-job training.
- Visits by staff to other countries for exposure to their ideas and practices and also to participate in international correctional organizations and conferences.
- Clarification of lines of authority, with institutional directors having the authority to carry out their responsibilities. A detailed role analysis will be performed. (Rejected was the recommendation that directors report directly to the Commissioner of Penitentiaries on the grounds that it would be impractical in a system with more than 50 institutions.)
- Establishment of citizen's advisory committees in all institutions, composed of a cross-section of society, to advise the institutional director on the general development of the programs, as well as on methods of informing the public on the operations of the institution.
- Representation of inmates by an inmate committee.

### Role of Commissioner

The Parliamentary sub-committee recommended that the Commissioner of

*Mission Institution in British Columbia, opened in January 1977, is the forerunner of a new smaller type of medium security penitentiary being built across Canada. (Below) a living unit, gymnasium and the perimeter fence.*



Penitentiaries should be appointed by and responsible to a board of five members which would have sole responsibility for the making of policy and would report to Parliament through the Solicitor General. Mr. Fox, in his response said this was one of the most fundamental changes that had been recommended and, because its implications were so far-reaching, he requested more time for examination.

Regarding the recommendation that gas not be normally used against a single inmate but a resisting inmate be physically overpowered by a team of guards, the Solicitor General's response was: "If there have been abuses or errors in the application of the policy it is agreed that steps be taken to prevent their recurrence. As the sub-committee itself notes, there is a requirement for a certain degree of flexibility in order to allow for appropriate judgments to be made in specific situations."

All inmates will be entitled to academic training, trades training and correspondence courses. At present, some 2,100 inmates are enrolled in the academic program and another 1,100 are enrolled in the vocational/technical program.

### Sex offenders and drug addicts

On the recommendation that there be several separate institutions for the treatment of sex offenders, the Minister's response was that various systems in the United States were being examined and a report on their possible application in Canadian institutions was expected in October.

As for the establishment of a special institution for drug addicts in British Columbia, the Federal Government is considering a series of approaches to the general question of drug abuse and a joint committee of the Government and the province is examining all aspects of the problem.

### Young offenders

The Minister was "highly sympathetic" to the proposal that at least one separate institution should be provided for youthful offenders on a selective basis. The response stated in part: "...the proposals to replace the Juvenile Delinquents Act, which the Minister hopes to present to Parliament in the fall, represent a major initiative in the area of prevention, diversion and the provision of alternatives to

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