

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

[Translation]

Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has stressed the negative aspects of the report. On the positive side is the fact that two thirds of the farmers did know about the program although it had at that time been functioning only for two years. It can be inferred that all the information since made available to farmers will in the meantime have contributed to reducing the percentage of those not aware of the existence of these services.

It should also be taken into consideration that farmers are not as interested as other workers in this type of service. They are so to speak their own bosses and not looking for jobs as other people might be.

[English]

For example, a current advertising program in magazines and on radio covers all regions of the country, urban and rural. Canada Manpower centres throughout the country continually advertise in daily and weekly newspapers the availability and starting dates of adult retraining courses. In addition, 350 Canada Manpower centres dispense a wide variety of pamphlets and brochures dealing with adult retraining.

The Canada Agriculture Manpower Committee, composed of federal and provincial officials concerned with problems in the agricultural manpower area, met recently to consider experimental projects which could result in new initiatives in the training of agricultural workers. These pilot projects would focus on the training needs in this field and serve as the basis for the development of courses. This development could lead to intensified information efforts aimed at farm organizations and the general rural population.

PENITENTIARIES—DORCHESTER—EXTENSION
OF WORK OF JAYCEES WITH PAROLEES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 17, I directed a question to the Solicitor General (Mr. McIlraith) having to do with the outstanding work which has been done for almost a year and a half by the Moncton Jaycees in response to an opportunity to work with the inmates of Dorchester penitentiary as well as with the inmates of the Westmount county jail.

In a day and age when we can be increasingly cynical about the activities of a number

[Mr. Nystrom.]

of service clubs and organizations, the work of this outstanding group is to be highly commended. The fact that at a recent banquet on November 15 this group received a congratulatory telegram from the chairman of the National Parole Board, Mr. Street, as well as from the Solicitor General, indicates the degree to which its activities have been recognized.

I raised the question in the House because I was concerned, first, that the work of these people should be encouraged and enlarged and, second, that the example of the group should not be lost sight of, so that we might see an increase in this kind of activity across the country. The local newspaper was moved to publish an editorial after the recent banquet of the Moncton Jaycee unit in which it said:

Members of the Moncton Junior Chamber of Commerce have drawn high praise from Mr. T. George Street, Chairman of the National Parole Board, for their fine work in helping make possible a day parole release system for several inmates of the Maritime Penitentiary at Dorchester and the Westmorland County jail.

I can speak from personal experience about the work which has gone on in the penitentiary itself. It was my privilege in June of this year to spend an evening in Dorchester penitentiary. I suppose the advantage of spending an evening there is that one can leave at the end of the evening, unlike most of those who make their homes there.

The thing that amazed me was the calibre of the meeting which was conducted that evening. I have rarely attended a public meeting conducted on such a high level as the one which was held that evening behind the bars of Dorchester penitentiary. It is easy for a lot of people to believe that those who run afoul of the law and end up in a penitentiary are limited in outlook and that they are not interested in the wider questions facing our society. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I have rarely been asked such searching questions on such varied issues as were placed before me that evening by the members of the Dorchester Jaycee unit. The way in which the meeting was conducted spoke volumes for the members of the Jaycee unit which is behind bars in that penitentiary as well as for the assistance given by the Moncton Jaycee unit.

While there is a very active Jaycee unit in the penitentiary, composed of some 50 members, it is unfortunate that outside in the