

The Hon. the Speaker: It must be perfectly understood that if honourable Senator Hastings speaks now, since he has introduced a substantial motion, his speech now will have the effect of closing the debate.

Hon. Mr. Hastings: Honourable senators, in closing the debate on the motion which I introduced yesterday, I have just two or three remarks to make with respect to the views expressed by the honourable Senator Beaubien.

My first observation is that I do not think in any of my remarks I referred to criminals, as Senator Beaubien seems to have understood. I think he misunderstood what I said. I referred to the treatment of individuals who had at one time or another run afoul of the law, served their sentences and as a result of their incarceration had benefited from their sentence and had resumed worthwhile lives within society. I cannot imagine that in this day and age men who go through that experience and travel that journey should still be referred to as criminals. It is that premise that is causing Canada to have more criminals and more prisoners in proportion to its population than any other country in the world. If we accept that premise, that because you were once in prison a criminal you were, a criminal you are and a criminal you will always be, then, honourable senators, go on building your prisons and penitentiaries bigger and in the wrong places, for the wrong purpose and for the wrong people. Continue to use outmoded ideas of prison reform and Canada will maintain the record of having proportionately more people filling its prisons than any other nation in the free world.

Senator Beaubien also referred to "bleeding hearts," and I make no apology for standing here and being described as a bleeding heart. I told you last night of the work undertaken in St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary by a group of Montreal businessmen, the Montreal chapter of the Data Processing Association of America. These businessmen take two nights a week to go to that institution to teach men a worthwhile course, to give them confidence in applying for employment, and when they successfully complete that course, assist them in getting employment in industry. These men do this work two nights a week throughout the winter. It is done on a voluntary basis, without pay, and as a result of their efforts, as I told you last night, 29 men out of 30 have been rehabilitated.

So, honourable senators, those men are bleeding hearts, and I will proudly join them. They give their time voluntarily in an effort to help other men to reform, and I will join them at any time. Can any one show me any course undertaken by the Canadian Penitentiary Service or any other program in these institutions that can show that kind of record for returning a man to a worthwhile life and worthwhile employment? As I say, I will join those bleeding hearts at any time.

I will join people like Allen MacLeod, the former Commissioner of Penitentiaries, who time and time again urged former governments to make changes in our penal reform and penal acts and in the treatment of prisoners. I will join bleeding hearts like Justice Ouimet, who studied this whole problem and presented the Government with

[The Hon. the Speaker.]

a voluminous report on reforms and changes needed in the treatment of these individuals. I will join a bleeding heart like Warden Pierre Jutras of Drumheller Penitentiary who as a result of his efforts with these men and adopting new ways of treating men can point to the fact that the men coming out of Drumheller institution have a 20 per cent lower recidivist rate than those coming out of any other penal institution in Canada.

By treating men as men and giving them a little responsibility and challenging opportunities. We need reform or we will have more Kingstons, and I do not apologize to the correction officer in that institution who blamed his difficulties on bleeding hearts and do-gooders.

Honourable senators, I accept the premise that if you treat a man as a man he will react as a man. Treat him as an animal and he will react as an animal, as was vividly shown at Kingston penitentiary.

The motion that I put before the Senate was to give consideration to what I thought was a needed change in the administration of the Criminal Records Act, to accept the premise that to err is human and to forgive is divine, and to stop using the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the investigative procedure of that act. If I did that, then, as a bleeding heart I have no apology to make.

Motion agreed to, on division.

MASS MEDIA

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE —DEBATE CONCLUDED

The Senate resumed from Wednesday, March 24, consideration of the Report of the Special Committee of the Senate on Mass Media.

Hon. Keith Davey: Honourable senators, perhaps I should begin my remarks by outlining the approach I propose to take. I shall begin with some general remarks about Senate committees, after which I shall say something about the posture of our report. I shall then explain how it was covered by the newspapers and the radio and television stations across the country, and say something about how the media responded editorially. Following that I propose to discuss the actual debate which has already taken place. Indeed, the main thrust of my remarks this afternoon will revolve around the debate on the media that we have listened to in this chamber. I propose to conclude my remarks with a discussion of some of the things that I honestly believe have been accomplished by the committee's report.

In expressing my profound belief in the value of special Senate committees I am not even momentarily downgrading this chamber's pre-eminent legislative function. I find it necessary to say that, honourable senators, because of the dramatic increase in the activities of Senate committees, which prompted one of my colleagues to say almost defensively that our legislative function remains. Indeed it does. I think its value was well underlined in Senator Aseltine's retirement statement when he informed us that the Government had accepted in his time here 1,000 amendments from the Senate.