

those who violated their conditions of parole previously are permitted to become again eligible for parole at too early a date. This change in the parole eligibility period will affect primarily offenders serving long terms, that is, of more than 12 years.

5. The National Parole Act regulation will be changed so that those who have forfeited their parole will have to serve one-half of any new term of imprisonment or seven years before being again considered for parole. This will prevent an offender who has forfeited his parole by committing an indictable offence from being reconsidered for parole before he has completed a large part of his total sentence. Under the present regulation an inmate who has forfeited his parole and has his parole revoked is eligible for parole consideration after serving one-third of his total term of imprisonment of four years, whichever period is completed first.

The two above-mentioned changes apply to inmates currently in our institutions. I am mindful of the fact that some inmates who had been making good progress toward their rehabilitation in the community might feel aggrieved by these changes. Any such case could be favourably considered by the National Parole Board where justified because of special circumstances resulting from these modifications.

6. Steps have been taken to increase the number of classification, visiting and correspondence officers within the Canadian Penitentiary Service, as well as those members of the staff who are concerned with the social development of inmates. More visiting and correspondence officers will provide additional opportunity for family and friends to meet and communicate with inmates within institutions. Additional classification officers will ensure that individual inmates receive appropriate diagnostic and counselling service as well as providing for closer screening of applications for temporary absence, day parole and full parole. Social development and activity officers are required to enrich institutional programs of leisure-time activities. The steps that have been taken to improve programs within the penitentiary system have included, as I mentioned, the use of temporary absences and day parole to gain access to rehabilitative re-

sources in the community for individual inmates.

#### Staff working conditions

7. Steps are being taken to provide additional staff facilities, such as conference rooms, libraries, lockers, lounge and shower facilities, to improve working conditions for employees in our penitentiaries.

Programs of inmate rehabilitation cannot be achieved without good relations between staff and inmates. A great deal of effort has been and will continue to be expended on establishing the best possible conditions for the reform of the inmate, but I fully realize that where staff, for one reason or another, are dissatisfied in terms of their working conditions, the prospects of useful staff-inmate relationships tend to diminish. While it is true that the penitentiary service is now unionized and a collective agreement exists, there are other areas not subject to negotiation where we could improve staff conditions.

#### Inmate grievances

8. To assure the impartial investigation of inmate complaints and grievances, I have received authority, under Part II, Section 6, of the Inquiries Act, to create the position of correctional investigator. Both the Archambault and the Swackhamer commissions recommend visiting committees to assist in the impartial consideration of inmate grievances. While I feel that this is a valuable suggestion, I am certain the creation of the correctional investigator's position will better accomplish these goals.

The appointee will assure that inmate grievances are dealt with at an early stage and on a basis that is satisfactory, generally speaking, to the inmate, the penitentiary staff, and to the Canadian public. The appointee will report directly to the Solicitor General. The correctional investigator's duties will be to investigate complaints of federal penitentiary inmates and to make recommendations concerning those complaints. The investigator will also be authorized to inquire on her own initiative but will be relieved of the necessity of making an investigation if she is satisfied that the complainant has not sought legal or administrative remedy. This

official will be required to make an annual report to the Solicitor General who will table it in the House of Commons, subject to the deletion of any material that might adversely affect the security of Canada or any penitentiary, and the civil liberties or privacy of individuals.

#### Female is first investigator

9. Miss Inger Hansen has been appointed Canada's first correctional investigator. Miss Hansen has broad experience in both the field of criminal law and corrections generally and I believe that her distinguished background will assure her success as correctional investigator.

These are recommendations that are calculated to deal with some federal correctional problems on a short-term basis in the field of penitentiary services, temporary absences and parole. For the long term, more profound changes may be necessary. I should remind the House that there is a report of the task force on the release of inmates under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Hugessen to be made public shortly which requires detailed consideration because it raises a number of important issues that could only be dealt with by substantial changes in current legislation. Similarly, a committee of the other place is conducting inquiries into the entire question of the release of inmates, whether on parole or temporary absence. Finally, there is the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee of this House which just a few days ago has assumed the task of carrying out an inquiry into our penitentiary system, including parole and temporary absence. All of these reports will be considered in depth as part of an ever-expanding development of federal corrections in Canada....

#### Language most often spoken at home

According to preliminary population counts of the 1971 census, English is the language most often used at home for 67.0 per cent of Canadians, and French the language for 25.7 per cent. Italian, at 2.0 per cent and German at 1.0 per cent, rank next as the languages spoken most often in Canadian homes.