

Supply—Justice

penitentiaries year after year for crimes of breaking and entering to get the money required to buy heroin. I know where these individuals were able to get a doctor to give them treatment, but they could not be cured and were given a minimal dose. The doctor saw to it that they were able to get that minimal dose and they are getting it today; and after seven years in one case and nine years in another those two individuals have never again broken the law but are useful members of society.

This experiment has been proven time after time in the United Kingdom and other countries, and I ask why we give no thought to that. I admit I am disturbed by our present policies. We are now letting or have let the contract for a \$4 million structure a few miles outside of Vancouver in which we will institutionalize the drug addict as a criminal. In the light of experience accepted throughout the world, the experience of the New York academy of medicine and of the American medical association, it is not possible to cure these people by confining them under compulsion in the manner now proposed. It is necessary to change their mental attitude, and that cannot be done by collecting them from all over Canada and incarcerating them in one huge institution under the criminal law. There is one particular aspect of this treatment which concerns even those who are ready to approve what the government plans to do as being, at least, a first step. I am referring to arrangements for the after care of those we propose to rehabilitate. What is going to happen to these people once they are released? This is the danger point, the point at which there must be rehabilitation, the point at which employment must be found and when the individual must be re-integrated into society. Unless this work forms a major part of our narcotic addiction treatment policy we will be wasting money when we spend this \$4 million or whatever it will cost to build this institution outside Vancouver.

There are different viewpoints, but I do not think we shall solve this narcotics problem until some system is arranged whereby the profit is taken out of the sale of illicit drugs. As long as there is the possibility of a profit, somebody will try to make somebody else an addict. We know we have addicts who must obtain certain drugs until they can be cured. Why, in the name of heaven, do we not make arrangements whereby they can get them legally, without having to go into the illicit market where the profiteer gains his living? I think our laws should be particularly stringent as applied to any pedlar of narcotics who is not himself an addict. I think that such people should get life imprisonment because of what they are doing. This problem

will always be with us until we bring in policies establishing dispensaries, so that those who need these drugs are not forced to go into the illicit market.

I am seriously concerned about these matters and I sincerely hope the Minister of Justice will do us the courtesy to make a statement on the situation, possibly when we get into the estimates in more detail. I have had the privilege of seeing and discussing the plans and programs of the commissioner of penitentiaries, and I sincerely hope the minister will be able to put the hooks on the Minister of Finance so that funds will be available with which to proceed in a civilized manner, so as to make Canadian penology the most admired in the world.

Mr. Baldwin: I had intended to make reference to a number of unrelated subjects which come under this item, but having in mind the lateness of the hour I shall restrict my remarks to a brief comment on the statements made by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice tonight.

I am happy to say that these statements indicate that the government recognizes there is a problem. That is the first requirement, the first step toward a solution. But in my opinion, recognition of the problem has not been followed by an adequate solution. I should like to refer briefly to what the Minister of Justice has said. He said: "As the Prime Minister has stated, the purpose of our security program is preventive, not punitive". If that statement is intended to relate to the criminal law, it has never been my understanding that the criminal law was punitive. It, too, is intended to be preventive. Our system of criminal law administration is by no means perfect. All such systems are imperfect. But I would say this—that in our experience we have reached a greater measure of perfection than any other system. This is because our trials take place in open court. There is a confrontation of accused and witnesses. Here, in these circumstances, with a judge sitting high on a dais, dressed in sombre robes, in the presence of friends, and witnesses subject to cross-examination by learned counsel, we come close to purifying the stream of justice. I recognize, of course, that in cases such as those the minister has in mind we cannot reach this measure of perfection but, I suggest, we could go a lot further than the government has seen fit to go today without imperilling our security.

I have two suggestions to make, and I will put them briefly before the committee. Is it not possible that a digest of the statement made in respect of each employee whose position is imperilled could be given to him, not in such a way as to permit him to identify