

one end, and when you take into consideration the length of time that must be taken for the admission and classification process at the other end, it means that out of a sentence of even 12 months you would only have some 8 or 9 months to spend in effective training and rehabilitation. We therefore stated that in our view we should only accept prisoners sentenced to terms of 12 months or more.

In order to implement the provision we have said we would recommend in due course a program to be worked out to the effect that sentences under federal statutes of between six months and one year should be eliminated. If that is done, it means that those sentenced under federal statutes with respect to whom the magistrates or judges think that the requirement is one of exemplary punishment or anything of that nature—and when I say “exemplary” I mean in the sense of some retribution for their wrongdoing but not a long prison term—will be sentenced to terms of six months or less. With respect to those whom the magistrates or judges feel that the requirement is for training, reformation and rehabilitation, they will be sentenced to terms of one year or more and will be sent to federal training and reformation institutions. That is the theory behind the proposal.

Mr. Roberge: I have just one further question on that item. Did all the provinces agree so far?

Mr. Fulton: Yes, all provinces have agreed, although no province was prepared to take responsibility for that recommendation. I want to make that point clear. Several of them said they felt some reservations with regard to the proposal, but they raised no objection. They said, “If you as a federal department are prepared to go ahead and put it into effect we will not quarrel with it but we are not urging it nor are we accepting responsibility for the recommendation”.

Mr. Coates: I was pleased to hear, in answer to the hon. member who preceded me, the statement of the minister with regard to the location of the federal penal institution in the Springhill area and to learn that options are now being obtained on property at or near Springhill.

First of all I should like to express to the minister not only my gratitude but that of the people of Springhill and of the people of Cumberland county for his announcement of March 5 in the house when he stated that Springhill or the Springhill area would be chosen as the site for the new federal penal institution for the Atlantic provinces. I should also like to express gratitude for the

attention he has paid to the location of this specific institution. He not only had his officials in the area at a very early date but he himself did us the great honour of personally visiting the area and looking over the proposed sites. In that way he was able to appreciate the merit of each of the sites proposed by his officials and was able to take into consideration all of the facts surrounding the location of the institution in that area.

May I also thank him for his early decision to go forward with the work on this institution, at least in a preliminary manner, even though, as he has just stated, the correctional planning committee have not yet made their final report to him on their findings with regard to this matter. This shows the keen interest the minister has had in the people of Springhill, in the light of the unfortunate disaster which occurred there last October as well as the previous disasters that have struck this unfortunate town.

May I ask the minister whether it is possible at the present time for him to enlarge on the type of institution that will be located at or near Springhill or whether he is able at this time definitely to name the site. He might not be able to do this if his officials have not obtained options on the land. Could he also say when he expects work will go forward on the construction of the buildings necessary to assist in relieving the present overcrowding of Dorchester penitentiary.

May I also stress—and I do this most sincerely—the importance of his officials giving every possible consideration to the employment of as many as possible of the people in the Springhill area. A great deal has been said, both good and bad, about the type of people in Springhill. When I say “bad”, what I mean is this. Many say, “Well, they are miners; they can’t do anything else”. I do not believe this for one instant. I firmly believe that any man who has been a miner can probably do any job, of any type, that could be placed before him. There is no harder type of work; and there are no more dedicated people than are the miners of this town. If they are given the opportunity I feel that they will prove, as they have proven on three different occasions, their strength and their ability to provide for Nova Scotia as a whole a very outstanding, worth-while, energetic and stable community in Springhill which before the minister’s announcement of March 5, appeared to be on the verge of slowly becoming a ghost town.

The minister gave them the incentive to go forward. They have embarked upon many different projects to beautify their town and