

should include such factors as the population trends of the District of Columbia, and the anticipated proportion of the population that we might expect to receive as a result of criminal proceedings" (testimony before ad hoc subcommittee).

Dr. Cameron said that the security hospital would be for those who were in need of this kind of environment, regardless of whether they came to St. Elizabeths by civil or criminal commitment. Certain prisoner-patients, depending on their illness, would not be kept in the security hospital.

This program is aimed at a long-range solution. At the close of his testimony, Dr. Cameron devoted his attention to what can be done now to reduce the number of escapes by persons who are likely to commit acts of violence. Although 147 prisoner-patients have escaped, of whom 29 are still at large, Dr. Cameron emphasized that this number is very small in relation to the total number of patients hospitalized. At the current time they are shifting a few nursing assistants from wards for civil patients to the services where prisoner-patients are treated outside the maximum security area. Dr. Cameron made the statement that "we can and are reducing the rapidity with which patients admitted as a result of criminal proceedings are allowed an opportunity to assume increasing responsibility for their own behavior." (This is contrary to the often-stated legal view that the purpose of those found not guilty by reason of insanity is not punitive but treatment. Such a person is a patient, not a prisoner, *Hough v. U.S.*, 106 U.S. App. D.C. 192 (1959).)

From the testimony heard at the committee, it would appear that it will be some time before anything of a permanent nature is done regarding the escape of criminal offenders. This problem will no doubt be treated as one of many when the future of St. Elizabeths is carefully studied.

In this connection, attention is invited to H.R. 9072, which provides for the establishment of a commission on the improvement of St. Elizabeths Hospital. The commission would be composed of five members appointed by the President and would be authorized to appoint a full-time staff director. The purpose of the commission is to make a full and complete investigation and study of all phases of the operation of St. Elizabeths Hospital with a view to determining the steps which must be taken to accomplish the congressional policy, as stated in the bill, "so that such institution will provide an example to other institutions through the Capital and Nation which are engaged in treatment of the mentally ill."

III. RELEASE PROVISIONS

Title II of H.R. 7525 contains several subsections dealing with release or discharge which differ from comparable provisions in section 24-301 of the District of Columbia Code. For the purpose of reporting to the Council, this committee does not feel it necessary for elaborate textual treatment, but feels, rather, that the accompanying chart adequately points out the differences between the present law and the omnibus crime bill on release provisions.

Respectfully submitted.

CHESTER H. GRAY,
HUGH F. RIVERS,
MORRIS MILLER,
Chairman,
Ad Hoc Committee.