

The fundamental concept of our prison system is rehabilitation and not retribution. We penalize people for violation of the laws of society to preserve order and not to chastise the individual. It is in the best interest not only of the individual but of society as a whole that the convicted wrong-doer be restored to full citizenship as soon as it is possible.

The basic philosophy on which this institution was founded is that there are problems in the daily lives of human beings which are common to all of us and which affect our welfare. For the duration of his sentence, the man who is imprisoned has most of these problems taken care of by the institutional staff. He is not confronted with the decisions and the choices that the free citizen must make in his daily living. The program which is carried out in this pre-release center aims to re-introduce the prisoner to the problems which will confront him when he is fully released from the correctional environment. In the effort to aid the prisoner in making this difficult transition from imprisonment to a free society, professional and lay personnel will be used in individual and group counseling. It is our hope that the program will reduce the present number of inmates who are unable to adjust to the free society on the outside, who commit new crimes and who become repeaters in the State's correctional system. As citizens of Maryland, interested in good government, we are pleased that the Department of Correction has taken this forward step to rehabilitate the transgressors of the laws of our State.

It is altogether appropriate that we name this building for an eminent penologist, Harold Eugene Donnell, who spent most of his life in correctional work and who for twenty-seven years was engaged in penological work in Maryland, as Superintendent of the Maryland Training School for Boys in Loch Raven and as Superintendent of Prisons. Harold Donnell was a recognized authority in the field of penology and contributed much to the development of the excellent correctional system that we now have in Maryland. This new institution, the pre-release center of the Maryland Correctional Institution, is but another step in the program which he initiated to improve our prison system. And so, it gives me great pleasure to dedicate this building to Harold Eugene Donnell, in commemoration of the many years of loyal service he devoted to the State of Maryland as Superintendent of Prisons for the Department of Correction.