

leased on parole to attempt to assist them in rehabilitating themselves in the society. And all too often this brings them back into the penal system again. It's a very costly and expensive thing for the people. If we had the proper procedures and if the rehabilitation proceeded better, we wouldn't have the rate of recidivism that we have at the present time, which seems to be pretty high according to Mr. Bennett's thinking.

Q. Would you consider again the possibility of him becoming Acting Commissioner?

A. No.

Q. Did he make any requests on you?

A. No. The only thing he said to me as he left was, "I'm not looking for a job."

Q. Governor, you just mentioned the states where you have extended recruitment efforts in, or you plan to. Now if you can't come up with *anyone connected with these particular state penal systems*, would you consider installing Mr. White as permanent Commissioner of Corrections?

A. I certainly wouldn't overlook the possibility of considering Mr. White. But if the Michaelson Commission recommendations, what I think are going to be their final recommendations, continue — they met yesterday incidentally in Baltimore — it seems to me that the added responsibilities that are going to be created within the correctional umbrella are going to require probably a person who's had experience that goes beyond that of Mr. White's. This doesn't rule him off the track, but it does indicate to me that we may have to go to a person of broader experience.

Q. Would you consider an introduction of a bill, not this year but maybe next year, that would authorize the construction of a new Maryland Penitentiary per se?

A. I'm interested in the idea but I'm not entirely certain that the need has been sufficiently documented for me to state unequivocally that I favor the immediate construction of the institution. Some people have reflected some feeling that no construction should take place until the overall plan has been evolved for the way the correctional system should exist ideally after the Michaelson restructuring recommendations. I've got to make that decision very quickly, and certainly before the end of this session of the Legislature.