

Falconwood Inquiry Continued

Q-Every night? A-No, every second night. Q-How do you manage the other nights? A-I go along the ward, another man takes charge. Q-Who would it be? A-Either Henry Jenkins or John McLeod. Q-In other words you only get every 3rd night off. What I mean to say is this, you are on Ward 5, Jenkins is on Ward 6 until 9 o'clock tonight, tomorrow night you get off Jenkins is on ward 5 and McLeod is on ward 6 until 9 o'clock. A-McLeod always stayed on 6. Q-Instead of getting every other night off, it would mean getting every third night off. Do you follow me? A-Yes sir, I understand. Q-Did you say McLeod was always on? A-Yes. Q-On the night you had off Jenkins always relieved you? A-Yes. Q-Would Jenkins get off at all? A-Yes, he would be on the night I was off. Q-How? A-I was on Sunday night and I was on the night of the fire. Q-Who would be on if McLeod were off and you were off the same night, what would happen? Were you off on Sunday night? A-Yes. Q-Was McLeod off on Sunday night? A-I do not know. Q-Where was Jenkins on Sunday night? A-I do not know. Q-He was in charge of two wards on Sunday night? A-Yes. Q-On Sunday night you and McLeod were both off? A-Yes. We were supposed to give orders from one attendant to the other. Q-When you went out on Sunday night, Henry Jenkins was in Ward 6, your ward was ward 5. Who was in ward 5? A-There was nobody in ward 5. Q-(Mr. Beer:) Are you aware that there is a rule here that states: "One attendant must always be in each ward with the patients and must never leave under any circumstances until relieved, without special permission." Were you aware of this rule? A-Yes sir. Q-Did you have special permission to leave your Ward, Ward 5, unattended? A-No, I did what the supervisor told me. Q-Who was the supervisor? A-Dr. Clark. I was to be off every second night. Q-And did he mention that rule and in spite of that rule give you special permission to leave your ward unattended? A-I understood when he gave orders to go off every second night it was all right. Q-Was your ward unattended when you left it? A-There was nobody in it when I left it on Sunday night. Q-Jenkins was in his own ward? A-Yes. Q-On Monday night what happened? A-I came on duty at a quarter to six on Monday morning and I stayed on duty until nine o'clock. Q-What about the fire? A-I stayed there too. Q-Was there anybody else but you? A-I was alone. Q-At eight o'clock was there anybody in it? A-No. Q-Where were you? A-I was in my own ward. Q-The construction of the east wing of that building is a brick wall adjoining the middle of the wing. That wall actually divides the wards. You will have noticed that there was a fire door or a metal clad door between the two wards? A-Yes sir. Q-Well, the fact that there was a metal clad door there shows that the building was fireproof. In other words the partition between the wards was built of solid brick in order to stop fire from getting from one ward to another, did you understand that? A-Yes, I understood that. Q-You were doing your duty in Ward 5 at the time, or as near as we can come to it, that the fire broke out? A-Yes sir. Q-While you were in Ward 5 would it be possible for you to hear any noise coming from the attic which would be above

Q-What were the weather conditions when you got out? A-Snowing and raining. Q-Was there much snow on the ground—fresh snow. Do you know? A-About three or four inches I would say. Q-I am trying to find out what the weather conditions were at the time of the fire? A-I was not out from six o'clock that evening. Q-Did you form any opinion as to how the fire originated? A-No, I didn't. Q-You have been nine years with the institution? A-Yes. Q-You know the attic dormitory quite well? A-Yes. Q-How many lights were in the attic dormitory? A-There was one in that small dormitory and one outside, that is two. Q-What is the small dormitory? There was one there and one out here? A-Yes. Q-(Mr. Stewart:) Was there one near McQueen's room? A-No, it hung in the centre of the big room. Q-Is there any light in McQueen's room? A-No. Q-(Mr. Beer:) Was there any wiring in there? A-I can't say that. They would never allow us to do any carpenter work around the wires. Q-Imagine you are sitting in that attic dormitory looking up at the ceiling. Do you see any wires on that ceiling? A-Only the one running from the ceiling to the light. Q-That would be the drop cord? A-It would be the wire and the light would be turned on to that. Q-It went through the ceiling? A-It went up to the ceiling. Q-You didn't see a wire along the ceiling? A-No. Q-You know there were no wires along the ceiling? A-I never looked. Q-Was there a blind attic above the attic dormitory? Was there space between it and the roof? A-Not to my knowledge. I never was put up there. The attic was the highest I ever got. Q-Was there a hatchway in the ceiling of the passage? A-Of the big room? Q-Was there a hatchway out here in the hall? A-Where McVarish slept there was. Q-A hatchway in the ceiling? A-Between the wall and the ceiling. Q-It was on the ceiling? A-No, up about three or four feet from the floor. Q-What was it for? A-Fred Monaghan told me years ago they used it to hoist food from the dining room. Q-I want to establish if there was a blind attic. If there was a space and if wires were in that space between the ceiling attic and the actual roof of the wing. Do you follow me there? A-Yes, I don't know whether there were any wires or lights. Q-You saw the light wire go up to the ceiling and apparently stepped there and yet there was light. Therefore wires must be above the ceiling. Do you think that? A-Yes, I would have an idea. Any time I ever went up to look up the patients I never looked around the ceiling. I always looked around the floor. Q-Did you ever have any trouble with the lights up there? A-No, only in the hallway leading to the back room. Q-Where is that? A-You come out of Ward 6 and go up the stairs, there was a light. Q-On the stairway? There was a light there? A-Yes. Q-How do you get clear of that responsibility? A-When the Supervisor tells me that man is going up to the attic. Q-Who told you? A-Mr. Bonnell. He came up and said the rooms are all filled and said we would have to send a man to the attic and I picked this man and told the dining room man to take him up. Q-(Mr. Beer:) In other words you considered that this man who was allotted to the attic was temporarily transferred from Ward 5 to Ward 2 for the night? A-No. Q-(Mr. Stewart:) Who was responsible for him during the night? A-The man who took him up to the attic till nine o'clock and the night watchman after that. Q-You just told me Kenneth McLean and John Murphy had charge of them. They had charge of the attic, wouldn't they be responsible for them there? A-Yes.

Q-Sometimes if you tapped the bulb it would come on? A-Yes, I would have to get a step ladder. Q-Sometimes you would take a stick and tap it? A-We weren't allowed to carry sticks. Q-Did you ever know of any trouble with the lights in the dormitory in the attic? A-No. Q-There might be trouble and you wouldn't know of it? A-I only went on when there was a man sick, the night watchman sick or on his holidays. Q-Do you know all the men that slept in the attic dormitory? A-Yes. Q-Did you know their habits, generally speaking? A-Not them all. Ward 1 and 2 patients I didn't. I have been on the other Wards relieving. Q-Do you know which of these men smoked? A-Yes, I know of two. Q-Which two? A-There was three. McMahon and Joe Giddings and Billie McQueen. Q-The men sleeping out in the attic dormitory were all parole men, were they? A-No. Q-Weren't they more or less trustworthy? A-Yes. Q-They were lesser diseased type of men? A-Yes. There was only two or three kept on the Ward to the best of my knowledge, as to Wards 3, 4, 5 and 6. Wards 1 and 2 I never knew of, except a patient got away. Q-McMahon and Giddings smoked. A-Yes. Q-You knew that? A-On the Wards. Q-They were of the type that were allowed out. Didn't they work around the farm? A-Yes, Giddings worked some-times on the farm. McMahon didn't. Q-He was on parole? A-No, the farmers took him out. Q-These two men smoked? A-Yes. Q-I suppose they would smoke a cigar or anything? A-There was no cigars allowed except outsiders gave them to them. Q-What about cigarettes? A-They weren't allowed cigarettes. Q-In spite of that they might have them? A-Yes, patients working out on the farm might have them. Q-They have been known to have them? A-I never saw them have them, except on benches. Q-Did you ever hear of them having cigarettes in the dormitories? A-No. Q-(Mr. Stewart:) You only had one patient in the attic? A-Yes. Q-How did he go up there? A-He went up from the dining room. Q-Did he have to go through Ward 6? A-Through none of the Wards. Q-Which stairway would he reach? A-The back stair where the fire started. Q-Does not that go through 6? A-It is outside 6. Q-Who look him up there? Anybody? A-Either Ken McLean or John Murphy. That was his job. Q-So that you had no responsibility for that patient at all during the night time? A-No, only in the day time, bathing them and giving them clean clothes. Q-Aren't the patients or inmates of that Ward all under your control; Aren't you responsible? A-Yes. Q-How do you get clear of that responsibility? A-When the Supervisor tells me that man is going up to the attic. Q-Who told you? A-Mr. Bonnell. He came up and said the rooms are all filled and said we would have to send a man to the attic and I picked this man and told the dining room man to take him up. Q-(Mr. Beer:) In other words you considered that this man who was allotted to the attic was temporarily transferred from Ward 5 to Ward 2 for the night? A-No. Q-(Mr. Stewart:) Who was responsible for him during the night? A-The man who took him up to the attic till nine o'clock and the night watchman after that. Q-You just told me Kenneth McLean and John Murphy had charge of them. They had charge of the attic, wouldn't they be responsible for them there? A-Yes, out of commission.

Q-What is your opinion as to the discovery of the fire? Do you believe that had an attendant been in Ward 6 where he should have been discovered earlier than it was? Remember that a minute and not more than two minutes after the fire was discovered you became aware that it was bursting out through the roof. A fire would have to be under way for a very considerable time, perhaps fifteen minutes, before it would burn through and burst out of a roof. The inmates of the attic dormitory must certainly have been aware of that fire long before their alarm was relayed to you or to whoever was the first to get it. I am speaking of the first attendants to get it, whoever they were. Don't you think that if you had been in Ward 6 that you would have heard some commotion upstairs and if you had would you have gone to enquire why there was a commotion? You think you would have heard it and you think you would have gone to enquire? A-Yes. Q-Therefore it is your opinion that the fire would have been discovered earlier had there been an attendant in Ward 6? A-I won't say earlier. Q-(Mr. Stewart:) Do you know anything about their habits in the attic? A-Any time I was on night duty they were always in bed. Q-What time do they usually go asleep, not as soon as they get upstairs? A-No. Q-Do you suppose they would all be asleep by eight o'clock? A-When I made my rounds there was always one patient or another awake. Q-Out of that number of people in that attic they wouldn't likely all be asleep? A-Not them all. JOHN MCLEOD (SWORN) Q-(Mr. Beer) How old are you? A-About 76. Q-What part of the Island do you come from? A-Kings County. Q-Where had you lived before you were employed at Falconwood? A-Dundas. Q-When did you become an employe with the institution? A-Four years ago the 18th of January. Q-Approximately four years ago? A-Coming four years. Q-And you have been steadily employed there ever since? A-Yes. Q-What was your occupation? A-Labourer on the railway. Q-Your occupation with the asylum? A-Looking after the patients—attendant. Q-When you first became an employe you were an attendant? A-I was a carpenter's helper at first. Q-When did you first become an attendant? A-Two years ago last September sometime. I was watchman for about a year. Q-After you were a carpenter's helper? A-Yes. Q-In what ward were you first an attendant? A-Ward 3—a watchman. Q-When did you first become an attendant in Ward 6? A-Two years ago last September. Q-You became an attendant in ward 6? A-Yes. Q-And you have been in Ward 6 ever since? A-Yes. Q-When were you in Ward 3? A-About four months after I came there. Q-You are familiar with the rules and regulations? A-Yes, as far as I know. Q-Can you read and write? A-I can't read in small handwriting but I can read in print. Q-Can you write your name? A-In a sort of way. Q-When you were first an attendant did you sign an obligation and agreement which was the official obligation and agreement to be signed by the employes on entering the service? A-I believe I did. Q-You did sign something? A-Yes. Q-You did not read it? A-Well no. Q-Was it read to you? A-Yes, read to me. Q-You are familiar with the rules? A-Yes, or at least done them as far as I thought was.

A-I think so or at least I thought so. Q-Who was employed with you in Ward 6? A-Henry Jenkins. Q-Then according to the rules you both came on duty at what time in the morning? A-I always came on about a quarter to six. Q-Six o'clock was the official time? A-Yes. Q-When did your tour of duty cease? A-Every other night at six. Q-And every other night at? A-Nine. Q-Do you remember the fire which destroyed the building there? A-Yes. Q-Were you on the premises at the time? A-I was in the building. I wasn't on duty. I was on the premises. Q-(Mr. Beer) You were off duty from six until nine that night? A-Until morning. Q-From six until morning. A-Yes. Q-Were you in your ward after six o'clock that night? A-Yes, I was there until about seven. Q-Until about seven o'clock. A-I would say so. Q-Why were you there? A-I was there because I didn't feel like coming to town. I just stayed there. Q-You just stayed there? A-Yes. Q-Was there a floor above Ward 6? A-Yes. Q-That would be the attic? A-Yes. Q-Was there a dormitory in that attic? Was there a place for people to sleep there? A-Yes. Q-During the evening previous to the fire—that would be Sunday evening—were you on duty until nine? A-Yes, until nine o'clock. Q-The patients had been sent to their rooms upstairs? A-Yes. Q-And locked in? A-Yes. Q-It was usual to lock the dormitory door? A-Yes. Q-Do you remember hearing any noise there from up there; any walking or talking that Sunday night? A-There is always talking. Q-I want to know if you could hear any noise. A-Yes. Q-Quite plainly? A-Yes. Q-Did you have charge of Ward 5 as well as Ward 6 at night from six until nine? A-Yes. Q-You have charge of two wards? A-Well, Ward 6. Q-And you have charge of Ward 5? A-Yes. Q-When there was no attendant in Ward 6 you walked through the door in Ward 5? A-Yes. If there would be a knock come to the door, sometime some of them were late, three of them were working late, and the patients came in after six, they all would come to Ward 5 door and they would knock at the door. Q-And then you left six unattended? A-Just for a second. Q-That does not make any difference. There is a regulation which I want to read you. Are you familiar with this regulation? "One attendant must always be in each ward with the patients and must never leave under any circumstances until relieved, without special permission." Were you familiar with that? Did you know that regulation existed? A-I never went without locking my door, without seeing that everyone was secure. Q-That is not the point. Do you understand that regulation now? The regulation states emphatically that you, as attendant of Ward 6, must not go into Ward 5, or any other place outside of your ward, regardless of the cost, unless having special permission to do so. And yet it was usual for you to have charge of two wards at given times, making it necessary for you to go into Ward 5 as well as to look after your own ward. Is not that correct? Do you follow me there? A-Well, I am not a judge. Q-Did you leave your ward 6

at any time unattended or did you not? A-I did yes. I went through to Ward 5 to lock them in. Q-Now, at different times when you were there from six until nine, say, there would never be any patients in the attic dormitory until after six? A-Not that I know of. Q-Well, say, for instance, you are on duty a certain night from six until nine in Ward 6, and there would be some commotion or extraordinary noise upstairs in the attic dormitory would you go up to enquire what the trouble was? A-That was Murphy and McLean's ward, they— Q-Wait a minute, now, did you ever go up? A-Murphy and McLean would be there. Two good men. Q-Murphy and McLean? A-Yes, they opened the door at six. Q-You are of the opinion that Murphy and McLean were in charge of the attic dormitory? A-Well they used to open the door. Q-Are you of the opinion that they were in charge of the attic dormitory? A-I cannot say. Q-Well, you told me a minute ago that that was their job. A-I said that they opened the door to let them up. They were the men that I saw open the door. Q-You have a key to that door? A-Yes. Q-You have been up there through the day? You have opened the door with your key and gone in? A-No, I went through from the east. Q-You had a key to that door? A-I have it yet. Q-Those men, then, according to your opinion, were really in charge of the attic dormitory. That is what you think? A-They were letting them up. Q-Were any patients out of Ward 6 in the attic dormitory? A-Yes, three. Q-You were responsible for the patients of Ward 6 when you were on duty? Q-Yes, well I suppose I was. Q-You know you were. You were in charge of the patients of Ward 6, three of which slept in the attic dormitory at night. Is that correct. A-That is correct. Q-If you heard noise and commotion— A-I— Q-Just a minute now. If you heard noise and commotion, and having three of your patients in that dormitory, would it not be your duty to go up and enquire what the trouble was? I think that is plain. A-Well, it was not that I never heard it. I had to go up. Q-I don't want you to misunderstand me. I am looking for information, and the only way I can get it is to get it from you men who were employed there. A-Yes. Q-There were several lives lost in this fire. And certainly if the men in charge of Ward 2 were responsible for the attic dormitory, they would be in no position, being down those flights, or stories, to have the faintest idea what was going on up there. Is that right? If you were down on the ground floor persons could almost take an axe and pound the floor without you hearing it. A-I don't know whether you could or not. Q-It is a big brick building and sound does not travel through it very much. Let us get to the time of the fire. Where were you when the fire was discovered? A-I was talking to the carpenter. Q-Where? A-In the building. In the centre building. Q-Over the kitchen? A-Yes, over the kitchen. Q-What was your first knowledge of the fire? A-The whistle. The whistle blew three times, and McEachern said to me: "That is fire." Q-Where did you go from there? A-I went to Ward 6. Q-When you went to Ward 6 what did you find? A-I opened the doors. Q-You opened the doors? A-Yes. Q-And saw—what did you see? A-I couldn't see. I smelled the smoke. Q-Could you see smoke? A-No, I couldn't see smoke. Q-Were there any other attendants there? A-Murphy was there with the hose trying to get the fire out. Q-What did you do? A-I took the patients out. Q-Now, Mr. McLeod, let us go up into the attic dormitory. You had been in there several times? A-Yes.

Q-Were there electric lights in that dormitory? A-There were. Q-Did you see them lit? A-Well, there would be light there. Q-Did you ever see them lit? A-Yes. Q-Did you ever look at the ceiling? A-I did, in a way. Q-Can you state if there were wires running across the ceiling? A-I am not going to tell— A-You never noticed. Is that right? A-The lights were there. Q-Did you ever notice if there were wires running along the ceiling? A-The lights could not be hanging on nothing. Q-Look at that chandelier. Are there any wires running along the ceiling? A-No. Q-Were there any wires on the ceiling or were they in the attic above the ceiling? A-You are asking me what is not reasonable. Q-I am not, I am asking you if there were lights. A-You might as well be asking me if they were over the building. Q-Do you see that chandelier? A-Yes. Q-You see that it goes right up through the ceiling, and the wires must be on the top of the ceiling. It is important that I find this out either one way or another. A-Yes. Q-Now the wires of the chandelier are up above the ceiling; they are not on the lower side of the ceiling. Do you see what I mean? What I wanted to know was where were the wires? A-They were on the building. Q-I know that they were. Could you see those wires that were feeding that electric light running along the ceiling, or were they above the ceiling? A-They must have been running there. Q-You don't know. You don't know where they were. You always had every other night off? A-Well, when it came to my turn. Q-You had every second night off and then your co-warden, Jenkins, was supposed to be on duty when you were off? A-Yes. Q-You were in the Ward at seven o'clock on the night of the fire? A-Yes. Q-Was Jenkins there? A-No, he was in charge of Ward 6. Q-When you left, where was Murphy? A-Murphy was between the two. Murphy was in charge of Wards five and six. KENNETH MCLEAN (Sworn) Q-(Mr. Stewart)—Where do you belong? A-Lewis, Lot 60. Q-You have been in that institution how long? A-From June 8th, 1927. Q-You replaced whom? A-Berrigan, who died in Ward 1. Q-What ward did you go in when you went there? A-Ward 1. Q-Then you were moved from 1 to 2? A-Yes sir. Q-How long have you been in Ward 2? A-From March 1st, 1928. Q-Now, how many inmates have you in Ward 2? A-Twenty-seven. Q-There is supposed, I believe, to be some of the most violent patients? A-Ward 1 and 2 are supposed to have the most violent patients. Q-You are all on the ground floor? A-Yes sir. Q-Have you any patients belonging to Ward 2 in the basement below? A-No sir. Q-Have you any patients in the attic? A-Yes sir. Q-Did they belong to your own Ward? A-To Ward 2, yes. Q-Why were they put in the attic? A-Well, to make more room for the other patients. Q-Is your ward, or has it been crowded for the last year or two? A-We always had every bed occupied in Ward 2. Q-Your attendance has not shrunk in Ward 2? A-No sir. There had been until a few months ago we had the least patients. The number was down to 25. Q-The above shrinkage would be in your ward, because you had the more violent patients and what they improved they were graduated up? A-Yes.