

parole, there is said to be discrimination, and that is the furthest thing from my mind. We would never want to be tagged with discrimination, because we would like to help. But when we are talking about that problem, it is a problem right across Canada, so let us get the facts straight. We can only deal with one part of it. We did not put them in.

The Chairman: Have you any idea as to why it is that they violate the parole? Is it lack of supervision? Is it improper supervision? Can you comment on that, or have you any ideas that would help us?

Mr. Maccagno: There are lots of ideas. We have been working on this problem for so many years. There are so many books written and so many studies made. I suppose if we ever got hold of one that would give us the answer, we would use it. We will have to go on to many areas here. Supervision is one. There may be more. One important part, to my thinking, is job opportunity. When the men are out there doing nothing and there is no revenue coming in and they have a family to support, that is a problem. The employment is mainly seasonal. That type of employment at one time was all right, but it is not there any more. The seasonal employment was a wonderful thing, as they could go trapping and make a little money and come back to the family. They could do a little bush work and come back again. Then they could do a little fishing and come back. It was all seasonal.

I cannot talk much of British Columbia, but in the area of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba the trapping is gone, there is no more living to be made there. The commercial fishing is just about shot, there is nothing there. These are the areas in which those people like to work. I can only expound on the things that you have already heard me talk about. There are many areas in the north in which they could be employed. If you want me to make a speech I can go ahead with it. As far as I am concerned, I am always looking forward to a program under which we can place these people doing useful work, in the areas that are home to them, and in the type of work that they like. When you come to the type of work, you get into forestry, into fishing, into the stocking of lakes, and so on and so forth. They can do a wonderful job. But we talk about those things and we never do them.

Senator Hastings: Would native parole officers help, or having a native on the parole board?

Mr. Maccagno: Yes and no. In certain areas, we find that they have done well for a while. Then I do not know what happens, they seem to fail and say, "You are a white man". There you are. We have tried them. We have some good officers and we are very proud of them, but if asked whether it has proved completely successful, I would have to hesitate in answering positively.

Senator Hastings: Would you care to comment on the suggestion by the warden of Fort Saskatchewan that a native institution be established, controlling its own affairs?

Mr. Maccagno: I spent almost half a day with him, as I wanted to know exactly what he meant because of a fear I had. He explained that a number of the natives entering Fort Saskatchewan Jail find some of the living conditions there—such as running water, central heating, and so on—

are better than they had at home, and my fear was that he was suggesting construction of some kind of "shack outfit" for the natives—which would be terrible. He assured me that this was not what he had in mind at all. He spoke about many of the things I had often advocated—finding employment in the areas of forestry, reforestation, oil exploration, fishing, et cetera.

For instance, practically all our lakes and rivers could do with re-stocking, and the natives would be really good at this type of program. This is the type of plan that he is advocating, and I have to agree in this respect. In the area of any proposed segregation, and a special institution for natives only, such a plan would need careful study. After all, they still will have to live in our society.

The Chairman: If I may point out, one of the reasons Mr. Maccagno is here is that the suggestion arose that he would have some figures to give us on how much time was spent on these different things. I believe Senator Hastings was asking that question.

Senator Hastings: Yes. We understood, Mr. Maccagno, that you kept excellent records with regard to the time the inmate is before you. Could you give us some idea, on average, of how much time the man is actually before the board?

Mr. Maccagno: Yes. When I go on a panel I start keeping track of the time from the moment the inmate comes in. Just using an example to break it down for you, when we were at Drumheller an inmate came in at 2.10. We discussed his case until 2.20 with the classification and parole officer. We discussed the case between us.

Senator Hastings: Without the inmate being before you, you mean.

Mr. Maccagno: Yes. Then we called the inmate in before us at 2.20 and he was with us for 15 minutes. That is a total of 25 minutes. Happily, he got a parole so he was very satisfied.

Sometimes we have gone as high as an hour. It all depends on the particular case. On average it seems to go about 20 or 25 minutes, and that pretty well covers the matter.

We had an interesting case the other day. The inmate stated that we had seen him two years before but had not been prepared to listen to him and gave him the brush-off. As it happened, I had been one of the panel on the previous occasion two years before and I was able to say, "Well, I don't know. I was there."—and he suddenly realized that I was. I said, "You came in at 9.45." He said, "yes." I said, "You went out at 10.40. That is hardly a brush-off." So these figures have come in very handy at times.

Senator Hastings: There is one complaint that is made quite often which I would like to put to you simply to have your answer on record. The complaint is that you make a decision before you ever arrive at the institution.

Mr. Maccagno: That is absolutely untrue. It becomes kind of disgusting even to think of that. Really, I am amazed, because sometimes, as Mr. Stevenson just told you—and I was with him on that particular case—we just struggle with a decision because there are so many factors that are