

They had 2779 dependents who might otherwise in most cases have been recipients of public assistance at high cost to the taxpayer. There was actually a total on parole in that month of 5257. The projected earnings, on which taxes were paid, were approximately \$12,000,000.00. The cost of imprisonment in 1971 was \$10,400.00 per inmate per year and the cost of parole was probably in the neighbourhood of \$1,000.00.

In 1964 a study was made by A. Andrew, of the School of Social Work in Toronto of all clients from the three Kingston penitentiaries and served by the John Howard Society during the period of ten months and followed up from 18 to 24 months after release. The R.C.M.P. made a fingerprint check for convictions for either indictable or non-indictable offences during this period. Sixty-two or 39.75% of 156 studied has no record of recidivism during that period. This compares most favourably with the recidivist figures for admissions to the penitentiary for the same year 1964 which showed that 77.2% had been in some type of penal institution before and 41.1% had been in a penitentiary before. It was also found that 44.6% of the recidivism took place in the first six months, 75.5% by the end of one year and 97.9% by the end of two years. This indicates that further recidivism will be slight after two years so that parole supervision and conditions may be greatly relaxed at that time. It further indicates the great importance of immediate and intensive supervision in the early period of parole following release. Beyond a certain point supervision, from a treatment point of view, serves no useful purpose and termination of parole supervision by the Parole Board on recommendation of the supervisor should be discretionary even in the case of long sentences and life sentences.

The problem of coverage in rural areas remains. It has been the policy of the after-care agencies to recruit "Associates" or in small centres "Volunteer Branches" to assist in helping returning inmates. Much good work has been successfully accomplished by these citizen volunteers under professional supervision.

It is obvious that these societies bring a community involvement into the corrections field that is most important not only to the program of service for ex-inmates but also in the area of penal reform. Arising from the experience of the service relationship to inmates and ex-inmates these citizen groups arrive at informed views concerning the correctional process and services which they are free to transmit to responsible government officials in the form of constructive suggestions for change. When made known to the public these views may create a readiness for change that makes it possible for the government services to move progressively. Unquestionably there is a unique role which complements the government services to the benefit not only of the ex-inmate but the community as well.

CRITERIA FOR ASSIGNMENT OF PAROLE SUPERVISION

It is suggested that criteria should be mutually developed and agreed upon by the parole service and the after-care agencies to assist in the selection and assigning of cases for after-care supervision within the fifty per cent distribution now agreed upon. This is if the maximum use is to be ensured of the resources of the parole service, the after-care agencies and other supervisory services. Such criteria might be based as far as assignment to after-care agencies is concerned on several principles:

(1) Where there has been an involvement in his situation of the after-care agency by the inmate, or his family, or some other interested agency or person such as an employer.

(2) Where there is obvious need for the involving of a variety of community resources which the after-care agency can mobilize as being part of the fabric of community services.

(3) Where there are obvious inter-personal or inter-familial relationship problems which the after-care agency can approach through its casework or group work services.

(4) Where there are evidences of personality disturbance or deterioration involving the need for collateral psychiatric service to support the casework service of the after-care agency.

CONTENT OF PAROLE SUPERVISION

The content of parole supervision is most difficult to define since it is highly individualized and dependent on the relationship which can be developed between the parolee and his supervisor. Relationship as developed in the one to one interview situation is the primary tool of social work. Hence it is our view that professional education in social work offers the best preparation for those who would work in parole and after-care. The use of groups in the re-socialization of the parolees should be given increased recognition as an important complementary treatment facility.

In general terms it may be said that persons who violate the criminal law are persons who have been "damaged" in the life process of growing up. Most citizens whose families are seriously disorganized or whose lives have been bitter and hostile do not resort to crime. Neither do the majority of those whose economic circumstances may have reduced them to the verge of hunger or want. There are appropriate social and welfare agencies to which most such distressed citizens turn. To deal with people in such straits is a difficult enough task; but it is increasingly difficult to deal with those who have crossed the bounds of behaviour within the law and experienced the process of law enforcement and penal incarceration. In most cases these become "doubly damaged" persons. Something additional happens to them in the penal institutions which scars internally and leaves the external stigma of "ex-convict".

This work is highly specialized and demands the utmost of skill on the part of professional staff and those exceptional volunteer workers who by personality and experience are suited for the task. This is social work as practiced in one of the most difficult of settings and not every willing volunteer or professional is suitable to practice.

The personal interview is the basic technique of social casework. In this face to face relationship there may be brought about release of emotion, revelation of need, planning the practical steps in rehabilitation, and support of faltering purposes and flagging determinations. The case-worker must be able to absorb bitter frustration and open hostility, misrepresentation and direct deceit, demanding and threatening requests for assistance, or, at the other extreme, helpless and ineffectual dependency.

Material assistance should then be used only as part of a total plan of rehabilitation in which worker and ex-inmate participate. The way material assistance in small amounts is used by the