

would call serious criminal offences; they are going into the provincial jails and so on. Is there a statistic on that?

**Senator Hastings:** The statistics are about the same.

**Senator Buckwold:** Is it that high?

**Mr. Stevenson:** I think the Commissioner of Penitentiaries could answer that. I think it is approximately the same in the western provinces.

**Senator Buckwold:** In the federal penitentiaries?

**Mr. Stevenson:** Yes.

**Senator Thompson:** I would like to clear up two points, Mr. Chairman, with Mr. Street. Has the Parole Board established special arrangements with any police force for the supervision of parolees?

**Mr. Street:** Oh, yes. We have liaison with them at all levels, so that they know who is on parole and so on. If you mean, do they actually do this supervision for us, I would say no, not very often, except in out-of-the-way places where they are the only people available. They do not do supervision in big cities.

**Senator Thompson:** As far as the categories of offences are concerned, drug addicts or bank robberies, is there any special arrangement with a police force with respect to offenders?

**Mr. Street:** Yes, there is, but they would not do the actual supervision. They would be more concerned with watching them and the other parolees and reporting to us if they saw a man at a place he should not be, or out late at night, or in the company of another criminal. Yes, there is some police force work in that direction.

**Mr. Stevenson:** May I just answer a little further? Are you aware, senator, that in the case of almost every parolee, one of his conditions is to report to the police at least once or twice each month, and that that reporting is perhaps reduced as he goes along?

**Senator Thompson:** Thank you. I was following on Senator Haig's question in connection with the right to apply for parole. Have there been cases in any situation where an institution has not respected this right and has prevented an application for parole?

**Mr. Street:** Certainly not that I know of. I do not suppose prisoners have too many rights, but they clearly have the right to apply for parole and have their case considered. I do not know of any institution where it has been otherwise, and if I had known I would have done something about it. The prisoner certainly has the right to apply and the right to have his case considered, and it would be quite improper for any prison director or anyone else to stop him sending an application to the National Parole Board.

**Senator Hastings:** Or making a decision on your behalf?

**Mr. Street:** He cannot make a decision on our behalf; no one can. He certainly has the right to apply.

**Senator Hastings:** May I return to the Indian problem? I know it was interesting, that Mr. Stevenson said something to the effect that "We are doing everything possible," and

"We were trying our best." Then Mr. Street mentioned a few moments ago that, "We are trying to do the best we can with this problem."

I have been attending some of these Native Brotherhood meetings in the penitentiary and they are quite vociferous in telling me that I, as a white man, just cannot understand or appreciate their particular problems.

I am wondering if they may not be quite right, in view of the efforts we have been putting forward, that we are now about ready to admit that we are incapable of solving the problem for them, and perhaps the time is ripe to grant some authority to organizations such as Senator Thompson mentioned, or Native Brotherhood organizations, to assume this undertaking.

**Mr. Street:** Do you mean, to grant parole, or to undertake to make them understand our position? I do not see what you mean.

**Senator Hastings:** Supervision, and their responsibilities.

**Mr. Street:** We will do anything. I do not have the answers to this. I am just saying that we are doing the best we can. We have not got the answer to this problem, but our officers keep in touch with the native councils, bands and reservations, chiefs and managers, and so on, and are trying to have liaison with them and to get them to do the supervision; and the Indian agents and the Brotherhood people you are speaking of, we know about them anyway. I do not know the answer.

**Senator Hastings:** Mr. Maccagno, would you care to comment on this matter, with your experience?

**Mr. Maccagno:** We can comment, but then we are at loggerheads here, for the simple reason that we know that in the northern parts of Alberta, something like 20 per cent of the population, if my figures are still correct, are people of native ancestry. In the penitentiaries, in the jails, about 40 per cent of the inmates are of native ancestry. That is alarming; that is a problem. But let us not forget one thing, that it is not the Parole Board who put them there. If you want to follow that line, that is beyond my realm of jurisdiction. Do you use the same yardstick when you have the natives before you in the court? I do not know. But start from there.

Let us get one fact straight, it is the native population, which is 20 per cent of the total, which comprises 40 per cent of the population in the penitentiaries or the jails. It is not the parole board that did that. We are faced with the problem that comes before us, and there is no question about it. I have been with practically all of the panel members and regardless of what they say, we would lean over backwards to help them, but we are not doing such a good job. When I say that, I mean that for every one of us, right across Canada. I would also say that we are doing our very best. But we need to follow it through, too.

My statistics point out something else which is very alarming. We have paroled them, but they violate and come back. What is wrong? We parole them a second time and they come right back. I am going to tell you that pretty soon, when they come up before us the third time, we are not doing them any favour. We do not know what to do. Where do we go from there? The moment we deny them