

committed a crime we think it best to investigate your conduct since that time. We still do not trust you and to make certain that the inquiry is done properly and extensively we are going to send the RCMP around to see what kind of life you are leading, regardless of any embarrassment the inquiry may cause you.

The use of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is unnecessary and repugnant to anyone with an appreciation of the journey these people have had to make. The logical and only agency to perform this task, if an investigation is necessary at all, is the National Parole Board and its officers. These men have shown evidence of being able to work effectively with parolees and inmates of correctional institutions.

These officers interview inmates, supervise parolees, assist in the work of rehabilitation and offer professional recommendations to the National Parole Board on various matters pertaining to the correction and rehabilitation of offenders.

Those words are taken exactly from a Public Service Commission of Canada poster advertising for applicants for the job of parole officer. These are the men who should be carrying out the job, as they have a profound knowledge and a deep understanding of the men with whom they work. They have a genuine appreciation of what they have been through and are in a much better position and are better equipped to make an objective judgment on the life that an individual or applicant is leading.

In support of my suggestion that the Parole Board should be used, I call on no less an authority than the former Solicitor General of Canada who, when speaking in the other house on January 30, 1970, as recorded on page 3044 of the House of Commons *Hansard*, said this:

The bill itself approaches the problem in this way.

It provides that the person concerned make application and the National Parole Board, which we believe to be the body best equipped to examine into these kinds of problems and with the most experience in this field, examine into the particular case and make the recommendation for the grant of pardon if the facts warrant it.

If this be the case as indicated by the minister, why would the Parole Board find it necessary to enlist the aid of a law enforcement agency such as the RCMP? Is the Parole Board still not "best equipped," as indicated by the minister, and does it not still have the "most experience in this field," as indicated by the minister? I am given to understand that the reason we are not using parole officers is that they are not able to carry out these investigations because they are presently carrying a heavy case load. There are, however, 150 parole officers in 38 offices in Canada. There are approximately 100 applicants for pardon per month. This would mean an average of less than one investigation per parole officer per month, which could easily be completed in a few hours with a check of police records to ascertain the absence of crime, and an interview with the applicant himself in his home and his personal environment. In only a few cases should it be necessary to carry the

examination further, and in a small number of cases police assistance might be justified and necessary.

If our parole officers are carrying excessive loads, one might ask why they carry the responsibility of community investigations. This is an investigation that is carried on in the community before a man is released from prison to ascertain the attitude of the community towards the prisoner and his pending release. Should we not be consistent and have the RCMP carry out these investigations? Why do we use parole officers in that investigation, yet when we affect the lives of men who have been rehabilitated we call on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police?

If our parole officers are overworked, then perhaps the time is opportune to provide assistance and relieve them of the burden of these inquiries. I suggest the qualifications for proposed assistant parole officers should be very simple, so simple in fact that it would probably completely escape the attention and interest of the analysts, appraisers and evaluators.

I consider the following to be satisfactory qualifications or basic requirements for persons acting as assistants to parole officers in this investigative and related work. He must have at one time been convicted of an indictable offence and served at least three years in a federal penitentiary or correctional institution. He must have shown, as a result of imprisonment, an ability to adapt and successfully rehabilitate himself with good conduct, industry and maturity. He must possess a sound knowledge of institutional programs, parole procedures, qualities of leadership and an ability to effectively communicate and understand in assisting clients of the parole board.

There is an old Scottish saying that "One must have walked the walk to be able to talk the talk." The man I have just described is such a person. He could deal effectively with these people and assist them in their rehabilitation. His performance might just equal or even surpass that of the sociologist, criminologist, and psychologist.

I have also been given the explanation that the Criminal Records Act is a federal statute and the logical agency to carry out the investigation is the federal police force. That explanation or observation is as inane and ridiculous as the investigation procedure itself. In only one other area of which I am aware, the security of the state, do we use peace officers in such a role. In all other aspects we use people with a particular knowledge or expertise in the matter being investigated.

Time and time again we are called upon to pass acts and legislation providing for a host of investigators and inspectors to make certain the provisions of acts and regulations are being fulfilled. Only when the law is broken do we call in a police force to enter the investigation with a view to prosecution. In the case of former inmates who have rehabilitated themselves, we do not hesitate to call in the RCMP and send them galloping off on this investigative procedure.

I am also advised that an investigation is necessary to make the pardon a valuable, worthwhile instrument.