

ence reports and indicated that the number of presentence reports that were made at the court level was not equal among the provinces. They are made available to us later.

**Senator Gouin:** What about Quebec? Do you have any idea of the number . . .

**Mr. Carabine:** There is a probation service in Quebec which is growing and we do receive reports from them.

**Senator Gouin:** Regarding the behaviour of the inmate, what form does the report take outside of dealing with trade, and so on? They may be misbehaving, and I would like to know what points are covered concerning his character?

**The Deputy Chairman:** Are you referring to the presentence report or the classification officer's report?

**Senator Gouin:** The classification officer's report.

**Mr. Carabine:** As I have said, it deals not only with the physical aspects of an inmate's behaviour, in an endeavour to ascertain the essential attitudes of the individual. It is relatively easy to depict the extremes of an inmate, and the so-called wheels within the institution or the inner sanctum. They might very well go along with the rules within the institution while they are inciting others not to follow the rules. His working habits are not good compared with other individuals. Some inmates attempt to learn and understand their own personality. It is that general personality structure of an individual we are concerned with and how that alters, if it does alter.

**Senator Gouin:** Is there always a psychiatric report in the file?

**Mr. Carabine:** No, sir, there is not. The majority of inmates would not normally come under the purview of a psychiatrist. Psychiatrists are obviously available. We do have psychiatric reports when they are required.

**The Deputy Chairman:** When they are required by whom, by yourselves, or if they happen to be in the file, or both?

**Mr. Carabine:** In both instances. Inmates themselves will ask to see a psychiatrist. An inmate's behaviour, or the crime he has committed may be such that he would be seen by a psychiatrist. These reports are available to us whether they are done as part of the institutional treatment of an inmate or if they are later requested by us.

**Senator Quart:** Senator Gouin, being from the province of Quebec, stole some of my music! Mr. Street mentioned the decision of the entire Board. With over 30 penitentiaries scattered across the country housing approximately 7,000 inmates involving the travelling parole panel, is it possible to hold many Board meetings of the full membership for policy decisions with respect to important specific cases?

**Mr. Street:** Yes, senator. As a matter of practice and habit those members who are in town meet every Thursday. This has been the case, except yesterday. Every two months one week is set aside in which all nine members are here for a meeting.

In order to overcome the problem of members being absent from the Thursday meetings our secretary attends

to take notes. Minutes of the proceedings are available to absent members on their return.

**Senator Quart:** Do any particular cases call for the decision of the full Board?

**Mr. Street:** Yes. All murder cases naturally have to be considered by the full Board. Should the Board recommend parole, those cases must be prepared and submitted to Cabinet. If it is a case of an habitual criminal or a dangerous sexual offender, the application is heard by a majority of the Board. Certain other types of offences, such as armed robbery, would not be dealt with by only two members but by a majority of the Board, or five members.

**Senator Hastings:** Is it fair to say that any crime of violence requires the whole Board?

**Mr. Street:** That is roughly it, yes. The cases I mentioned have to be heard by the full Board. No two members could grant parole to a person convicted of armed robbery, for instance. Should the two-man panel consider a case to be important enough or one which might become a cause célèbre, they would not grant the parole on the spot, but would refer it to headquarters for consideration by the remainder of the Board.

**Senator Quart:** I have been led to believe that the Parole Act specifies that a Board decision is not subject to appeal. Can decisions of the Board be appealed? You mentioned that you submit them to the Cabinet.

**Mr. Street:** That applies only to murder cases.

**Senator Quart:** Why is it so for murder?

**Senator Hastings:** Because it is the Queen's prerogative.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Because the law so provides.

**Senator Quart:** I know, but—Well, I must not question the law.

**The Deputy Chairman:** You are a little off the subject in this line of inquiry.

**Mr. Street:** I personally would welcome a channel of appeal from decisions of the Board. I am very conscious of the awesome powers we have over the liberty of individuals in deciding the question of their release. However, I cannot think of any manner in which we could establish such a system. The courts are very busy now, and I do not believe they would desire to become involved in questions of release. Since we are conscious of this awesome responsibility, we have means within the Board by which cases to which some doubt attaches can be reviewed by the full Board, although the application may have been refused by two members.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Honourable senators, allow me to make a statement. We are attempting at the moment to arrive at a general picture of what happens from the time a man enters prison until his release completely from all restraints. Many questions will undoubtedly arise which can be asked at another time. May I again suggest that you make notes and keep them? We will provide other opportunities for discussing these questions, but we are losing continuity.