

law. I think it is necessary to have the deterrent effect of knowing that if he does break the law he will go back and serve the two years, which you quoted in your example, or whatever the term is. As I said, that is a bit longer than average. Surely it is not asking too much of a man to say, "Don't break the law". That is whole idea of the system. If he intends to break the law, then he had better not apply for parole.

**Senator Hastings:** You do agree that a man is serving time on the street.

**Mr. Street:** Oh yes. It clearly says that he is serving his sentence. As long as he serves it without violation or without committing another offence it will come to an end as soon as the term is finished. I think it desirable and necessary for the protection of the public to have more control over more criminals, preferably control outside, and this is the only way we can establish it now, together with probation.

As I said, I think prison should be a last resort, and only if no other means of treatment or control is suitable or available. It is very important that people come out of prison under parole, so that they can be helped with their problems and at the same time supervised to see that they do not commit offences. The whole name of the game is "Don't break the law. If you are going to break the law, don't come and see me, I am not interested in you." We are interested in helping those who want to help themselves. If a man is going to break the law he should not be out in the first place, and he should go back for quite a long time. Prison should be reserved for those people who are a menace to society and cannot be controlled or treated in any other way. If they are incorrigible or a menace to society, I am afraid they will have to stay in prison, because we do not know what else to do with them.

**Senator Williams:** I have listened very carefully to the answers that have been given, but I would like to go back a bit and refer to the six or eight Indians who are employed as part of the personnel. Were these people appointed or did they get on to the board in the normal way, through competition? Did they have to fill in applications or were they appointees? Do they have qualifications?

**Mr. Street:** They did not have the same qualifications as our other officers. This was a special class designed to get some Indian people on our organization. We picked, I think, 20, who were given a special course at Kingston. Some of those who completed the course were put into the Penitentiaries branch and others were put into our organization.

**Senator Williams:** The status Indian population of Canada is less than one per cent of the total population of the country, and the high population in the institutions, possibly around 40 per cent, is of great concern, not only to myself but to the Indian people and to this country. Why is it so high? From my own observation, the Indian is not criminally inclined. Is the reason this figure is so high because of his educational standard, his environment and his lack of knowledge of this society? I believe the day has come when there must be some form of, shall I say, special consideration or added personnel to accommodate him and make known to him his rights in prison. It appears to

me that he is not getting enough knowledge, or he seems to be in a state of inaction or in a vacuum, so that he is not really applying for parole. The 40 per cent-plus figure is of real concern to me.

**Mr. Street:** Yes, and it is of real concern to me. I do not know why there are so many of them there. Certainly we do the best we can to try to help them, tell them about parole and so on. They are not easy cases to look after. I do not know what the answer is. However, I do know this—and I am not talking only of Indians but about everybody—when somebody ends up in a federal penitentiary it is because every influence that is good in our life has failed with him—his family, his church, his school, the YMCA and all the other things that we have got going for us; he has probably been on probation, maybe at a reformatory and so on. He ends up in a federal prison, and we are supposed magically to reform him. Well, it just does not work that way. Not much magical reformation takes place in a prison, even though they have a lot of good programs, dedicated people working hard and so on. The penitentiaries get them after everybody else in society has failed, especially the family, for instance, which is one of the most important influences. I do not know what the answer to this is. It is not easy. This applies to everyone, not only Indians.

**Senator Williams:** The incidence of those ending up in penitentiaries is far too high when you consider their total numbers in the country. Some while ago Mr. Stevenson referred to my friend Bill Mussels. He is a social worker and has a degree. However, he did not stay long in the service; he moved out. He was an ambitious young man and he became an executive assistant to the Minister of Indian Affairs. There are other young Indians who are going to university; possibly two or three of them are taking sociology. These are the young people who are needed.

**Mr. Street:** We would like to get them. We were very sorry to lose Bill Mussels; he was a good officer, and it was easier for him to talk to other Indians than for our other people. We would like to get some of these other young men. In order to get them we have lowered our standards and have a special training course for them. I said we have six or eight; it turns out that it is nine of these men, who are with us now, and even though they do not have the same qualifications as others we got them fitted in anyway.

**Senator Williams:** I know one who is graduating this year from the University of British Columbia in sociology. I think he would be a good person to have.

**Mr. Street:** We would like to have him.

**Senator Buckwold:** I should like to have clarification of the figure of 40 per cent of inmates in prison being Indians. Could I have that clarified? You say that is 40 per cent in Western Canada?

**Senator Hastings:** The western provinces.

**Senator Buckwold:** Your percentage does not relate to the national total. What percentage of prisoners in the penitentiaries are Indians? I would think it would be considerably less, that most of the Indian crimes are really not what we