

attention, and not simply the intervention of an impersonal programme—which gives rise to a need for all kinds of specialized persons, whether they be psychologists or social workers—but persons capable of using an interpersonal approach—capable of profoundly grasping the problems of inmates—since presently, social workers found in our institutions are overburdened by myriads of things.

Let's take as an example: inmates have just been granted their release on a basis of Code 26. At the present time, social workers are overwhelmed by inmates requests for leaving "as per Code 26"—weekend leaves. Therefore, should we have three social workers for every 400 inmates in our institution, and should we, each weekend, receive 50 requests for weekend leaves, this means that the social worker must meet with the requesting inmates, to evaluate the scope of his request, to make contacts with his family in order to assess the importance of such leave, to write up a report so as to introduce the case to an inmate training committee, that takes place each week, so that that particular case be studied by a combined-services committee—thereby resulting in the adopting of a decision regarding the weekend leave. Therefore, that particular weekend leave gives rise to a great expenditure of energy, of effort, and unlimited time, which supposes that all that time is taken away from cases requiring individual attention or for therapy, and for an in-depth search regarding a given individual's life. So that these new programmes have not allotted us new personnel within our institutions, are very time-consuming, and prevent us from doing thorough work in other ways.

**Senator Lapointe:** Then, you would have a greater number of social workers? Would you rather have a greater number of social workers than of sociologists?

**Mr. Belanger:** Of both.

**Senator Lapointe:** It's because you seem to say that social workers have become overwhelmed due to this new formula?

**Mr. Belanger:** Yes.

**Senator Lapointe:** But it seems that sociologists are not overly affected by such new regulation?

**Mr. Belanger:** He is less affected by that—It's evident. Constant attempts are being made to influence the psychologist, so that he will have a direct say in this matter. But we do not wish to become so involved.

[English]

**The Acting Chairman:** Mr. Belanger, you are a qualified psychologist. Cannot you tell the committee what, in your opinion, would be the normal workload for the conditions you have outlined?

**Mr. Belanger:** It is one for 75 in the United States.

**The Acting Chairman:** And would you agree that that figure would also apply to the Canadian correctional institutions?

**Mr. Belanger:** I would say it would be quite an improvement if we had that type of ratio.

**Mr. Cyr:** It would be quite an improvement.

[Translation]

**Senator Goldenberg:** Do you mean a psychologist, or a social worker,—one psychologist for 75?

**Mr. Belanger:** One psychologist for 75,—since it's quite different.

[English]

**The Acting Chairman:** Excuse me, I am getting the translation as "social worker"—are you referring to a classification officer?

**Mr. Belanger:** Yes.

[Translation]

**Senator Lapointe:** Did the gentleman wish to say something?

**Mr. Albert:** Yes. I work in Cowansville, where living units, or community units are soon to be installed; and in our 500-inmate institution, there are presently eight of us having the responsibility of classification officers—giving rise to a case load of 50 per classification officer, while psychologists remain at one per 200.

**Senator Lapointe:** Is there a lack of balance between the two?

**Mr. Albert:** Yes. That's it: with more officials on the payroll, more contacts will be made with inmates, and the more numerous the contacts, the greater will be the manifestation of the problems as these will be brought to light; and, oftentimes, those individuals are referred to psychologists, and there are requests.

**Senator Lapointe:** Therefore, the psychologist is unable to fulfill all your requirements, all your requests—because there are too few of them?

**Mr. Albert:** That's it; the psychologist plays another role, also:—the role of consultant, and that is why, a while ago, one could say that the psychologist has his foot in everything—which goes so far as personnel training—and, under such circumstances, of what consists his therapeutic role? That is why the American Psychological Association suggests one for 75. But, frankly, we did not come here for things of that nature—let's say that these are the facts.

**Senator Lapointe:** Once an image is released, is it a social worker that looks after him—the psychologist's role has ended?

**Mr. Albert:** Madam, that is why we said so in our report—that we can well visualize the role of the psychologist or psychologists, within the framework of parole, that is, within surveillance agencies of the Parole Board. Such psychologists might pursue treatment at the psychological level—where such work has already been started within institutions—since, once the fellow has been released, we don't see him any more; we are within our walls, and what can we do. We are not in the same position as my colleague, Marcel Thomas, we are unable to work evenings with him. We sometimes do it, but on a voluntary basis.

**Mr. Bourgeois:** However, to pursue the matter further regarding the integration of certain parole officers, we