

This has happened recently because he went out of his way to try to find jobs for them. Somebody has to do this. They either have to find jobs themselves or else somebody has to arrange it for them.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Street, I think I am in error in that I did not ask you to introduce your staff, and I think that rather than formally introducing them all now, I might say that on any one of these questions dealing with detail you are quite free to call on any member of your staff, and as you do that to each one you can introduce him and then he becomes a witness before the committee for that particular question.

Senator Hastings: I will not labour the point, Mr. Street but I thought that I might take credit for the increase, in the light of the memorandum I gave you and the Commissioner of Penitentiaries.

Senator Thompson: I want to follow up on this point, Mr. Street. We have been given, as one of the reasons why they are not on parole, the unemployment situation, but I would suggest that in the Maritimes they also have a tough unemployment situation and so I question the validity of that alone. Could you give us other reasons why Quebec seems to have a lower figure, and is there some research being done with respect to the fact that Quebec has a very low percentage of people coming out on day parole in comparison with other provinces?

Mr. Street: That is right; they had 149 in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. I will see what Mr. Miller has to say about this and if he can add anything to what I have said. It depends, of course, on whether somebody gets these things organized. As I have said, just recently one of our officers in Granby went to some pains to do this. The same thing happened in Dorchester. Our officer down there, with help from other people, got things organized. It is not a matter of discriminating; it is a matter of organizing.

Senator Thompson: Are you suggesting that parole officers are more organized in other provinces than they are in the province of Quebec?

Mr. Street: I do not think that is the situation. I think it could happen, but in some places it is a little easier to do it. It is not so easy to do it, for instance, in Dorchester because it is a long way from town. It is also not as easy in Stoney Mountain, although we do it.

Mr. F. P. Miller, Executive Director, National Parole Board: I think the main thing Mr. Street has said is that the complex of factors is most important. When one does isolate a single factor such as employment as having a bearing on it, then the attention goes to that as the main cause, whereas it is not necessarily so. Your point as to whether one office is better than another raises an interesting possibility. Without making a comparison, it is possible that a total situation in a particular area can be much more conducive to having such a thing as day parole take place. I am confining my remarks at this point to day parole because that is where the interest is. In Winnipeg it has turned out—and I am not necessarily giving bouquets to Winnipeg as opposed to any place else—that there is a complex of factors that makes for a building up of day parole.

Senator Thompson: I am sorry for interrupting you, but here we would like to know what that complex of factors is. We know that one factor is the employment picture, but what are the others? Because if we know those things we will know how to better the situation regarding parole.

Mr. Miller: A total interest by the officials and by the community there, having people in the community who are willing to assist, the existence perhaps of residential facilities that might be of some consequence, all officials at all levels concerned at a particular time to bring about a result. If that implies a criticism of some other area that does not have all these things working together, it is not intended in that way. Over the years one finds a waxing and waning of interest in particular areas.

Senator Laird: What about the existence of a family, as opposed to the release of a single prisoner with no family—in other words, an unmarried prisoner? Does that enter into the picture?

Mr. Miller: Well, there could be circumstances favourable to both and there could be circumstances unfavourable to both, but with a family and a job possibility this might be a good thing, while on the other hand for a single person, a number of day paroles are for educational and training purposes. In these cases what matters is the man's capability to benefit from the program and the existence of the program.

Mr. Street: One of the factors that is very important, senator, is whether or not the local authorities co-operate. Senator Hastings was telling us in his case about federal prisons, but we have just had a letter from the attorney general of a province complaining that there are too many day paroles. He does not like seeing people on the street; he prefers to see them in his crummy prison. This is the kind of thing we have to contend with. Now we have gone to some trouble to promote this, especially in some of the provincial prisons which are not very good institutions in which to keep them and where they have no training and no program, and we think it is better to have them out working and doing productive work during the day and coming back at night, or at least on weekends. That is better than having them sit in these places, particularly if it is safe. However, that has not been an easy product to sell and in at least one province they do not like it.

Senator Goldenberg: Did they give reasons for not liking it?

Mr. Street: They thought it was being done too freely. They saw somebody sentencing a person and the next day saw that person on the street, and they just did not like it.

Senator Goldenberg: How many parolees do not come back as expected from day parole?

Mr. Street: I do not think we have had very many failures on day parole.

Senator Hastings: I think it is about 1 per cent with respect to temporary absence.

The Deputy Chairman: I understand there are two bases for day parole: some of them are organized by the prison system itself; and some are organized by yourselves. Am I correct in that assumption?