

The paroled inmate on minimum parole, like the one under mandatory supervision, is required to serve time which was previously credited to him for good behaviour in the institution. Also, as it is granted during the middle third of a sentence or the "discretionary" period, minimum parole does not differ from discretionary parole. We find little need for it since the advent of mandatory supervision in 1970. It only adds complexity to the parole system.

SHORT PAROLE. Short parole is a procedure for inmates in provincial prisons which is similar to the minimum parole procedure for federal inmates. It is usually granted for "less than thirty days, immediately prior to expiry of sentence".³ An inmate granted short parole would then serve that portion of the thirty days granted to him plus all his remission time. Apparently, supervision is not provided in these cases.⁴ It is, in fact, discretionary parole, since it is granted to an inmate during the middle third or the discretionary period of his sentence.

Like minimum parole, short parole is really indistinguishable from discretionary parole. The use of these categories by the National Parole Board is, therefore, redundant. It may also be misleading since the use of a different term implies a different or special program.

Although the Committee rejects existing procedures, we approve the principle of conditional release after two-thirds of a sentence has been completed. We propose the expression "minimum parole" to designate such a procedure but suggest a different meaning from that which it now has. While we use the same term, it is in no way related to minimum parole procedures as they were used in the past. Our concept of minimum parole is more closely related to mandatory supervision but differs from it, first, in that the release would not be mandatory. It is a release to which the inmate would be entitled but he would also be entitled to refuse it. Secondly, in order that the system be equitable, all inmates, both provincial and federal, except those serving life and indeterminate sentences, would be entitled to minimum parole.

Because of difficulties of adjustment facing ex-offenders, the proposed new minimum parole for all inmates would be a more rational method of release from incarceration. It would provide the inmate with aid during the reintegration period while at the same time providing the public with maximum protection and some degree of control through supervision.

Recommendation

41. The provisions for mandatory supervision, as they now exist in the *Parole Act*, should be repealed and, in lieu thereof, the law should provide that the last third of every definite term of imprisonment should be a period of minimum parole to which the inmate is entitled.

Inmates would then serve their entire sentence as handed down by the court. In effect, every sentence would consist of three parts: the first third being a period of incarceration in an institution; the middle third, a period during which the parole authority may release the inmate on discretionary parole; and should the inmate not be granted discretionary parole, he would be entitled to be released on minimum parole to serve the last third of his sentence under supervision in the community.