

or disapproval; and to the other type, those cases where the Board members themselves make a reservation, for whatever reason? I think you have two separate types.

Senator Hastings: Certainly, you can have a reservation because of the report to Cabinet, but most of them are reserved for further psychological or psychiatric reports. I am speaking of murder cases now where the murderer is convicted. These are dragging on into quite a period of time. Also, you have the ordinary reservations because of community reports. You know a year ahead of time that this man is coming up on that date.

Mr. Street: Having a report a year ahead is not much good to us. We want all reports within six months, especially psychiatric or psychological reports. The members are not going to be happy with psychiatrists' reports two years old, or a community report two years old or even one year old. That is why we try to have everything within five months. I am not suggesting that we have not been responsible for some delays, but I am saying—not just suggesting—that most delays are caused by people outside our organization over whom we have no control. We have to refer to psychologists and psychiatrists for reports, and we have to wait until they get around to giving their reports to us. The members are not willing or able to make decisions until they receive the reports.

The same thing applies to community investigation reports. We cannot parole an inmate until we know where he is going and until we know something about him. If we refer it to an outside agency, we have to wait until we get it. We do the best we can, but because they are busy, and for various other reasons, we do not always get the reports in time.

Most of the cases you asked me about were in that category. I think you referred to 26 cases. Well, those were referred to outside agencies.

Senator Hastings: I do not know to whom they were referred. I realize you did not have the community report and were forced to reserve the decision. I appreciate that.

Mr. Street: That is one of the reasons why we thought we should do it ourselves.

Senator Hastings: I think you should, too. If you need additional staff, then you should have it.

Mr. Street: We have to do what we are told.

The Deputy Chairman: If you are going to have a hearing, before commencing the hearing could you not arrange to have all the information you are going to require? In other words, you could postpone the hearing rather than delay the result. I know you operate a little differently from that.

Mr. Street: We try to get the information before. That is why we start all the final processes five months ahead of the eligibility date. The hearing is one month ahead, so that we will know about and can allow for any last-minute delays. At least we have a month. In some of those cases the inmate did get out on his eligibility date, even though we had had to reserve it at the time. That is the way we try to do it. It is not fair to let the inmate go past his eligibility date. If he is suitable for parole, he is entitled to be released on parole on his eligibility date. We try to get all the reports ready and to gear everything for that date.

Senator Thompson: A moment ago, Mr. Street, you said that you wished you could do the community reports yourselves. Why cannot you?

Mr. Street: Well, if we have an officer in Montreal—and we have 14 there, I think—we say, "Do it!" We do not say, "Please, would you do it?" We say, "Do it!"

Senator Thompson: But why did you say you wish you could do it yourselves? Were you suggesting that you cannot; and, if so, why is that?

Mr. Street: Because we have instructions to refer 50 per cent of our cases to outside agencies.

The Deputy Chairman: Is this where your problem arises?

Mr. Street: Part of it. Then there is the other problem concerning psychiatrists and psychologists. We do not hire any of them.

Senator Laird: Mr. Street, are you saying that you are short of psychologists and psychiatrists?

Mr. Street: We do not have any on our staff, sir. I would say, yes, that there is a shortage throughout the country, generally speaking, although we are able to get them. As you know, psychiatrists can make more money in doing more pleasant work in private practice, industry, and so on, than in prison work. So, even though they are well paid, it is hard to get men interested in prison work. It is fair to say that there is a shortage, although the situation has greatly improved in the last few years. We are able to get them, but sometimes there are delays.

Senator Goldenberg: On this question of a shortage of staff, you were talking about mandatory supervision . . .

The Deputy Chairman: We have not reached that stage yet, senator.

Senator Goldenberg: Mr. Chairman, I am referring to the matter of the shortage of staff. I was going to say that that will put further stress on the staff resources.

Mr. Street: Yes, it will.

Senator Goldenberg: Have you been planning to meet the situation?

Mr. Street: We have been planning for a year and a half. This will mean another 70 persons coming out on parole who do not even want to be on parole, and we will have to contend with them amongst the other problems which we will face.

Senator Buckwold: Is there such a thing as a legal aid program for an individual parole applicant to help him in appearing before the Parole Board?

Mr. Street: In some provinces legal aid is available to them, but lawyers do not appear before the Board. However, they can write to us.

The Deputy Chairman: This raises a fairly important question, and I think we may want to go into it later, so I am going to ask Mr. Street right now if he will deal with this so that the committee will understand it. What is the hearing? What representation or assistance is available to