

by expiration.³ "Expiration" was defined this way: "The individual has completed the full sentence of imprisonment awarded by the Court (Warrant Expiry Date)".⁴ There is no explanation to indicate how a life sentence or a sentence of preventive detention can terminate other than by death of the offender.

In previous chapters, reference was made to the power of the parole authority to discharge offenders from parole. This category of parole termination is not reported separately but lumped in with several other categories.⁵ Furthermore, there is no explanation of the reasons for which parolees were granted discharge. The only hint is in the "Glossary of Terminology" of *Parole Clientele Statistics* which states: "It (discharge) is normally considered after at least six years have elapsed from time of release on parole."⁶ That is hardly a complete description of the program of parole discharge.

Another program that remains completely unreported is the day parole program. There is no information on the number who have been denied day parole, granted day parole or had day parole terminated for whatever reason.

During our study, we searched for information on the use of remission. In Chapters I and IV, we indicated how this program affects sentences and parole. It was impossible to obtain data showing to what extent remission is lost, why it is lost, and how often and for what reason it is returned to the prisoner prior to his release as permitted by law. Prison administrators questioned about this were unable to refer to data that would be useful. They could only describe in general terms how they administered the program.

The program of probation following imprisonment is in the same state. Information now available does not indicate how many of these sentences are being imposed, under what circumstances and on whom. No one is able to assess the effect these sentences are having on offenders. Absence of data makes it impossible to examine this court-administered "parole" program and to compare it with ordinary parole.

For temporary absences, the Canadian Penitentiary Service on two occasions provided us with statistical data and claimed a very high success rate.⁷ Although the claim appears well founded, the statistics are misleading. Defining "temporary absence" and the method of collecting data are at the root of the problem. Temporary absence leave to go out to lunch is equated with one for a three-day family visit. Obviously, there is not the same kind of risk involved in the two cases. Also, the total number of temporary absences increases significantly if temporary absence is granted to every member of two baseball teams that go out to play a three-hour supervised exhibition game. Committee staff encountered cases in some community correctional centres where the director claimed he sometimes issued six different temporary absences to the same person in the same day. In others, the practice was different and only one temporary absence permit was issued for several absences in a given period of time. In the circumstances, one may well ask what a failure rate of .5 per cent actually means.

Where they exist, statistics on parole or on programs related to parole are not satisfactory. The incomplete and unsatisfactory state of the data has been recognized.⁸ Delays in preparation and publication were acknowledged and breakdowns in the collection system were mentioned. Perhaps the most serious fault in parole data is the collection of a great deal of meaningless facts that clog the system to the point that useful analyses are seldom, if ever, produced.