

agency which is not doing as well as it did under the grant system.

Senator Fergusson: They are certainly not getting as much money as they did under the grant system.

Mr. Street: Unfortunately, I suppose that is so in the business of supervising women, when we do not have any women on parole. I did not realize until you told me. For all the others it is a very beneficial system.

Senator Fergusson: Do you not have any women on parole now?

Mr. Street: Yes, but we do not have as many. There are only 100 women in federal prisons.

Senator Fergusson: I know.

Senator Quart: It cuts down the investigation.

Mr. Street: If we paroled them all, there would be only about 100.

Senator Fergusson: It is not so much the investigation; it is the work with them. It is not an investigation. The investigation is over by the time they are sent to them on parole.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it the after-care, perhaps?

Senator Fergusson: Yes.

The Deputy Chairman: I think this is another factor that we will have to deal with.

Senator Fergusson: It is certainly one that I would like to see dealt with.

Mr. Street: Unfortunately, this agency is not doing as well now. Agencies are now being paid \$800,000. I think, according to the figures for last year. I am not sure if that is for last year or for the first nine months of this year, without checking. It is one or the other.

The Deputy Chairman: You might check it and give it to us, so as to keep the record straight.

Mr. Street: Mr. Paul Hart, do you have the answer to that question?

Lt. Col. Paul Hart, Director, Administrative Services, National Parole Board: The \$800,000 is the estimate of what we will be paying in this fiscal year.

Mr. Street: Do you know what we paid last year?

Mr. Hart: Something around \$700,000, I believe.

The Deputy Chairman: Thank you.

Senator Thompson: When you pay them that amount, Mr. Street, there has always been an apprehension on the part of some voluntary agencies that the man who pays the shot calls the tune. The voluntary agencies may feel this. I think we should give them credit. They have been critical in the past of the lack of reform and have been pushing for reform. Do you see, in paying the agencies, a danger that you might drown out that spirit of reform?

Let me include another question and take another area in particular. Assuming that there was a situation with one of these agencies, where you felt really that the case workers or after-care workers were really not quite competent but these people had community sanction and punch, could you go to them and say, "You must have certain standards with respect to your after-care workers, and if you do not have those standards you do not get a grant"? Are there standards that you set up and require before they get a grant?

Mr. Street: That is one of the problems, senator. It is not easy. Even though it is a contract and provides for certain control, and so on, it is not just feasible to insist on and enforce the kind of high standards which we would like to have. But we had, for example, to give 50 per cent of our cases to them anyway. It is not that easy. Some of the agencies, through no fault of their own, are not able to have the same high standards that some of the others do, because they are not as big or do not have as much money, and so on. This is a problem.

Senator Thompson: What are the guidelines set down by the department before you give money to them? What are the standards required, or are there any standards required?

Mr. Miller: The agencies that are given supervision and that are asked to do community investigations are agencies that have been working with us for a period of time. In the last year, since we introduced this contract, there have been two or three new agencies that have been introduced, and we go through a preliminary period of our local office assessing the particular kind of service they can give. If we feel the service is likely to be adequate, then we move to a contract. In negotiations at the local level we do endeavour to improve the standards of performance. If the performance is not up to standard, our district representative meets with the head of the agency on a particular case and points out where, in our opinion, the work was inadequate.

Senator Thompson: Have you ever said to an agency such as the Elizabeth Fry or the John Howard Society that the individual agency was not up to the standard in the particular area and that, therefore, you would not give them a grant?

Mr. Miller: Well, we are now on a fee-for-service basis, and so on a particular case it may very well be that we would say we would handle that case ourselves. Usually in such a situation as that the agency itself would agree that we were the ones who should be handling the particular case. It may vary from area to area on just how that decision is made.

Senator Thompson: But you have no code of standards. There is nothing set out with respect to this public money which goes to the agencies.

Mr. Miller: Yes. The contract sets out certain requirements.

Senator Thompson: What are those requirements?

Mr. Miller: The requirements are that they will make an investigation, and appended to the contract is an outline of