

do in that case notify them. I had meant to mention that to Senator Hastings previously.

Senator Laird: That is what I was trying to get at. Thank you.

Mr. Street: We let them know in that case, but other than that it is left to them to get in touch with us.

Senator Goldenberg: Are you saying that that is confined to the province of Quebec, Mr. Street?

Mr. Street: It is now, senator, but anybody could do it. In respect of British Columbia, as I mentioned, we certainly had very special arrangements with British Columbia because of the Doukhobor situation. But I would say, so far as I know now, that Quebec is the only province where we notify them on long sentences.

Senator Hastings: So you do invite the Attorney General of Quebec, he is given the opportunity to oppose parole.

Mr. Street: He could oppose it. He could give us information or make a recommendation that he was not in favour of parole. In that case we would expect some information about it. We would expect to know why, and usually the reason why is that they suspect the inmate is in organized crime or something like that.

Senator Hastings: Well, during the October crisis last year the government of Quebec issued a public statement to the effect that the government would not oppose parole with respect to the 13 alleged political prisoners. They said they would not oppose parole. By inference, that means that they could oppose parole.

Mr. Street: I think the unfavourable impression created by that press release was not entirely fair. In those cases, as I indicated, we are at pains to seek them out and have conferences. This was a tense situation in which we were dealing with an abnormal class of persons. We were glad to have those conferences. But I think the cases to which that article referred concerned some people who were eligible for parole, and perhaps some of them would have been considered for parole if the whole thing had not flared up again.

Senator Hastings: Yesterday I tried to get an answer from the minister, but without success. Perhaps you can enlighten me. Why did the province of Quebec, with 30 per cent of the inmates, have only 11 per cent granted day paroles during 1970-71? Twenty-five per cent were granted parole. In other words, there seems to be an unfairness about this. I will not use the word "discrimination", but there seems to be an unfairness towards the inmate in the province of Quebec, and I am wondering if there is an inference to be drawn here.

Mr. Street: Day people depends on so many factors. For instance, it depends upon co-operation of the prison authorities themselves because they have to let the men out during the day.

Senator Hastings: I am dealing only with federal penitentiaries, sir, not provincial.

Mr. Street: Then it depends not only on the co-operation of the institutional people but on whether the man has a

job or a school to go to or some kind of training that he has accepted.

The Deputy Chairman: Senator Hastings, you gave us some percentage figures with respect to the province of Quebec. I think you said 11 per cent got day parole, and then you gave another figure of 25 per cent, but you did not tell us what that figure referred to.

Senator Hastings: Twenty-five per cent of the paroles granted were granted to Quebec inmates.

The Deputy Chairman: But you did not give us any comparative figure there, although I am quite sure it was in your mind. In order to complete the record, would you tell us why the 11 per cent and 25 per cent figures lead you to say that there seems to be some discrimination, or unfairness, as you put it?

Senator Hastings: Well, the Maritimes, with 9.6 per cent of the prison population, sir, were granted 11 per cent of the paroles. Ontario, with 28 per cent of the prison population, was granted 26 per cent of the paroles. The western provinces, with 32 per cent of the prison population, were granted 37 per cent of the paroles.

The Deputy Chairman: That is what I wanted. That completes the record. Thank you.

Senator Hastings: And then, along with this goes the temporary absence. In the province of Quebec, with 30 per cent of the prison population, they were granted only 2,000 temporary absences, which is 10 per cent of the temporary absences granted during 1971.

Mr. Street: It is certainly not a matter of discrimination. It must be because we did not get that many applications which could be favourably considered. A man is not allowed to go on day parole unless he has a job to go to or a school or training to go to. We do not give him day parole just to wander around. Inmates can get temporary absences for other reasons, and they do get them rather freely in some cases, but it is certainly not a matter of discrimination.

Senator Hastings: I should not have used the word "discrimination". Unfairness—let us put it that way.

Mr. Street: I do not know if I could produce statistics with respect to the inmates who applied for but did not get parole. However, I will try to get that information for you.

The information I have about day paroles granted this year is that in the province of Quebec in the first nine months of this year there were 158 out of a total of 1,000 across the country.

Senator Hastings: I am glad you brought up that figure, because the figures I have, granted by months, are 4, 9, 7, 7, 11, 9. Then in October it jumped to 22 in the province of Quebec. I thought that was a significant increase in that month.

Mr. Street: Well, this depends on so many things, such as whether a person has a job organized, and so on. One of our officers in Granby has done quite an extensive job recently in the field of day parole. He has been at some pains to arrange this for 30 inmates, if I recall correctly.