

inmate needs to be married to get out, or needs to have influence or money to get out of the penitentiary, and so on.

These briefings last for an hour to an hour and a half, and the inmates are generally encouraged to think about and work toward parole.

Actually, except for isolated areas, there is no further contact by the parole service officer with the inmate body in general until such time as the individual applies for parole. Basically, the two jobs of the parole service officer are, firstly, the preparation of material and of reports and so on for presentation to the Board and, secondly, the parole supervision.

Senator Hastings: Can we just go back to the beginning again, to where the inmate has arrived and you open your file?

Mr. Carabine: Oh, I see; you want me to go through this step by step.

Senator Hastings: Yes. What does your file contain at this stage? He has arrived at the penitentiary.

Mr. Carabine: Other than in Alberta at this moment, and expanded, the only thing that the file contains at this stage is the admission form from the penitentiary, which is just a basic document giving the inmate's sentence, age and information of that kind. Then the first report to arrive after that is, generally, the R.C.M. Police fingerprint section record, which is sent to us automatically in all penitentiary cases. That is an up-dated record. Following this, police reports are received. Certain large forces and, in fact, certain small forces send us reports automatically in cases of inmates sentenced to penitentiary. With respect to those which are not sent automatically we will request them from the force involved. So the file gradually builds up. I should say here that the file in the field and the file at headquarters are identical.

Senator Hastings: Am I correct that the first contact the inmate receives is a letter from Mr. Street advising him of his parole eligibility and when to apply?

Mr. Carabine: That is correct. The letter is sent to the inmate, with copies to the field staff, warden and so on, advising the individual. In the case you mentioned involving a three-year sentence, it would normally be at one year. He is advised to apply five months in advance of that date.

Senator Hastings: Would you explain to the committee the difference between earned remission and statutory remission on a three-year sentence?

Mr. Carabine: In effect, the statutory remission is granted upon admission. It is one-quarter of the sentence. Beyond that the earned remission consists of three days per month and must be earned. The net effect of that, as Mr. Street indicated earlier, is that approximately one-third of the sentence is remitted if the inmate earns and keeps all his earned remission.

The Deputy Chairman: Senator Hastings, there is an urgent request for a supplementary question from Senator Thompson.

Senator Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Carabine, referring to the file that you have initially and the sources from which you obtain information for that file, you omitted mention of the pre-sentence report or probation officer's report. Does the predisposition or the pre-sentence report form part of your file?

Mr. Carabine: Yes. Pre-sentence reports are received automatically from the various provincial probation services and are available both to us and to the penitentiary.

Senator Thompson: Do you get the pre-sentence report automatically or is it only available?

Mr. Carabine: We get it automatically, yes.

Senator Thompson: Is that report mandatory? In other words, in respect of pre-sentence reports made by probation officers, is it mandatory for these to be made before an inmate goes to the penitentiary?

Mr. Carabine: No, sir. That is at the discretion of the court.

The Deputy Chairman: Senator Thompson, I really do not think you ought to be asking the witness questions on that area, because that would depend entirely on the rules in each province, surely.

Mr. Street: If Senator Thompson means by the word "mandatory" that we get the pre-sentence report, the answer is: Yes, we get it, if there is one. However, we have no control over whether there is or is not a pre-sentence report made in the first instance. In some provinces there is not a pre-sentence report in all cases.

Senator Thompson: Surely, if we are going to assess a man in terms of rehabilitation it is vital to have the pre-sentence report? I am sorry if I appear always to be putting Mr. Street on the spot.

Mr. Street: I am used to it, senator.

Senator Thompson: In my opinion, the pre-sentence report is a useful document. Do you agree that it is useful?

Mr. Street: Yes, I most certainly do, senator. I regret to say that, even though it is done in all cases in some of the provinces, it is not done in all cases in all of the provinces. In fact, in the case of some provinces one could almost say that a judge is not supposed to sentence without a pre-sentence report, but, unfortunately, we do not get it in all cases.

As I indicated, if one has been made, we certainly get it. Incidentally, Mr. Carabine will be telling you in a few minutes about another method of obtaining information he has devised by which, in effect, we will have a post-sentence report and we will be able to start working on that.

Senator Thompson: I take it, then, that you would be happy if we recommended that pre-sentence reports be mandatory in all penitentiary cases and that copies of all such mandatory pre-sentence reports be automatically supplied to you? Would you be happy with that?