

special sensitivity and understanding for this type of work. I believe Manpower officers who deal with immigrants have special training. The first priority of a Manpower officer may be to Canadian citizens who are law abiding, and, consequently, he may have a strong prejudice towards inmates. Is there any special selection for the type of individual who goes to the penitentiaries to conduct these interviews?

Mr. Stevenson: A few years ago they had a special placement section and the staff was selected to work with people with handicaps, whether mental or physical, and prisoners as well, but that has been abandoned. Mr. Miller now advises me that there is an ex-member of our staff in charge of the special section in Manpower which looks after the liaison with the prisoners.

Senator Thompson: Manpower has a number of conferences. Have you, or members of your staff, ever been asked to give talks at these conferences?

Mr. Stevenson: Yes. I attended a number of meetings in Vancouver at which I was asked to speak on parolees and how they could be assisted.

Senator Williams: With respect to native inmates—and there is quite a number across the country—it appears to me that the qualifying point in obtaining parole is job availability. This is where the expression of an opinion comes in. Most of them have no qualifying skill or training. Where then does Manpower place them, if Manpower should lend an ear?

Mr. Street: The same applies to almost all people coming out of prison: most of them do not have any trade or skill, so most of them have to compete in the unskilled labour market, which is competitive.

Senator Williams: How and where does he start competing? Inside?

Mr. Street: Any inmate?

Senator Williams: Yes.

Mr. Street: As I was explaining, he has the same opportunities to talk to Manpower, to us, to after-care, to relatives and friends, as anyone else, and we will help him.

Senator Williams: Does the native inmate feel he has the same opportunities when he is inside?

Mr. Street: I would think so.

Senator Williams: I do not think so.

Mr. Street: I do not know what we can do other than what we have been doing. We have even had a special program, for which we engaged twelve native officers. We have six or eight of them left. Some left our organization, but we have six or eight of them working in our offices now in the West.

Senator Williams: You say six or eight. You are not sure whether it is six or eight?

Mr. Street: No, I am not; that is why I did not say the exact number.

Senator Williams: In view of the large inmate population, which I understand is very high, where are these six or eight people? Are they in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario?

Mr. Street: I know there are some in Manitoba.

Mr. Miller: In each of the four western provinces.

Mr. Stevenson: There are two in British Columbia.

Senator Williams: Is the number of natives who gain parole quite high? Is it comparable with the others, in view of the percentage of inmates?

The Chairman: Senator Williams, I think we should have the information on the distribution first. I wonder if we could have that question answered, and then go on to your second question.

Mr. Street: We have two in Vancouver, one in Prince George, one in Regina, two in Winnipeg, two in Brandon, and one in Thunder Bay.

Senator Williams: You say there are two in British Columbia.

Mr. Street: Three.

Senator Williams: There are in Vancouver two Indian organizations, one the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, the other the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia, which I head. We have had an office in Vancouver since 1942, but not once in my experience in that office, which extends over 20 years, have we ever had a visit from any person from the Parole Board, or anything pertaining to matters of parole for Indian inmates. Where do they go? I think an organization like the Union of Indian Chiefs, our organization and other small organizations should be consulted.

Mr. Street: I am sure that our office is in touch with them, because we know of those organizations.

Mr. Stevenson: I was in Vancouver for ten years, and I must say that you are quite right, Senator Williams: I never did visit your office. However, I felt we were doing everything possible to work with the native people. Bill Mussell, who was a member of our staff, whom I think you know, handled a good many of these contacts. Whether or not he had been to your office, I do not know. When the group in the penitentiary became organized we assigned an officer to work with them towards forming the Indian half-way house, encouraging their getting together and sticking together, and getting resources for them outside. I do not have statistics, but I believe that they received just as many paroles as the white fellows who were applying. Certainly we knew and recognized the handicaps they were under. We tried to work with them in every way to equalize the situation.

The Chairman: I believe Mr. Maccagno has some figures on this.

Mr. Street: I have some figures dated August 1971, from our four district offices in British Columbia, which indicate the ratio of paroles granted to Indians and non-Indians. In Victoria parole was granted to 44 per cent non-Indians and 69 per cent Indians; in Vancouver, 67 per cent