

- b) contracting for services with private after-care agencies.
- c) contracting for service with community residential centres.

Role of the Police in Parole Supervision

Some presentations, written and oral, advocated complete exclusion of police from any role in the administration of parole. Police groups were somewhat divided on this issue: some only wanted to know when a parolee comes to their area; others said that they should have more than a peripheral influence on parole release decisions. A few briefs suggested that agencies other than the parole tribunal should have a direct influence on decisions and some came very close to saying that police should have a veto power. The Committee takes the view that the parole tribunal should be the only authority responsible for decisions. Others may express opinions but they must be prepared to make them known in the course of the parole application hearings. A wise parole tribunal will consult as many agencies as possible on a parole applicant; but it should be only consultation and not binding.

The Committee sees a role for police agencies in supervision through surveillance. Police can effectively exercise surveillance functions as part of their routine but surveillance must not become harassment. Surveillance of parolees by police must be discreet and as thorough as resources permit, but for breaches of parole conditions, only the parole supervisor should intervene. Police surveillance of parolees should not interfere with the freedoms made possible by parole. We think it should respect the principle set out in the Ouimet Report: "The basic purposes of the criminal law should be carried out with no more interference with the freedom of individuals than is necessary."¹⁴ In this way, police agencies could contribute to more effective parole supervision.

We deplore the distrust and hostility that appears to exist between agencies, police, parole and after-care. It is urgent that these barriers be broken in order that parole supervision attain maximum effectiveness. Parole supervision is a cooperative enterprise involving many community agencies, police services, and parole staff.

Exchange of Supervision

1) *Interprovincial and federal-provincial exchanges.* Creation of numerous parole authorities in Canada would require ground rules for exchange of supervision. With only one authority for the entire country, movements of parolees do not create particular problems since transfer of responsibility can be made quickly within one bureaucracy. With a number of parole authorities and several bureaucracies as recommended herein, there would have to be a mechanism for the exchange of supervision between jurisdictions.

Parole conditions could provide for strict residence requirements forbidding movements across provincial boundaries. But this would be an unreasonable restriction especially for parolees seeking work or wishing to return to families, or for other valid reasons. Parole supervision exchanges between jurisdictions could be established by interprovincial contracts or agreements, or through a procedure similar to that provided in the *Criminal Code* for exchange of probation supervision. Whatever the arrangements agreed upon, it should be efficient and expeditious.