

you could farm it out to people who would do it for you, in universities and places like that?

Mr. Street: Well, we have access to having it farmed out, but we could very well use a research man in our own organization. What we need in the whole department is somebody to analyse the research that has already been done instead of going out and doing still more research. We would like to have somebody who could analyse, index and classify the research already done. We are spending more and more money to get more and more research when what we need is to have an analysis of what we already have.

Senator Hastings: I notice there has been an appreciable decrease in reserved decisions in December. Is there any particular reason for that?

Mr. Street: No, there is not.

Senator Hastings: Just one other question, Mr. Chairman. Why is the meeting tomorrow in which we are going to deal with decision-making to be held *in camera*?

The Chairman: The reason is that Mr. Miller is going to discuss with us actual cases. He will be giving us the names, the background and all the information connected with a particular case. While it is true that he need not reveal the name, by the time he has given us all the information available, the person concerned would be readily identifiable. I think this will give us a better idea of how the board works than anything else. He also has suggested that when he gives you all the information the committee can then sit as a board and reach a conclusion on a particular case and then we will see whether our conclusion is the same as that reached by the board. I think this will indicate to you that it will probably be much more useful if we do that in a cozy corner here than if we were to do it on the front lawn, and I am not merely referring to weather conditions.

Senator Hastings: I have just one further brief question for Mr. Street. It concerns "lifers," and the mandatory ten-year term before you can consider granting them parole. Do you not agree that some "lifers" would be eligible for parole, and are they not being unduly punished as a result of this provision?

The Chairman: That is a leading question.

Mr. Street: Before that ten-year term came in we used to parole people in exceptionally deserving cases after six or seven years. At that time we had power to do it, but now

we do not. The Ouimet Committee Report recommended this also.

Senator Hastings: Have you ever paroled a capital offender under the provisions of the parole by exception?

Mr. Street: Yes. We cannot do that now but we used to parole them before ten years, sometimes up to six or seven years. However, this was before the law was changed.

Senator Hastings: Would this be, let us say, as low as three and one-half years?

Mr. Street: Did we ever go as low as three and one-half years?

Mr. Miller: Before the days of the Parole board, people were paroled as low as three and one-half years. I was active in a case under this provision; and in the data which was given to the parliamentary committee on capital punishment there was a list of around 70 cases of people who received sentences of ten years, and I think the lowest term of parole which was granted was about three and one-half years. There were ten cases in the group under ten years. This, however, is before the period of the Parole Board.

Senator Hastings: Do you mean before 1959?

Mr. Street: Yes. We used to do this.

Mr. Miller: For those prisoners who were on a seven-year term, there may have been some since 1959 as low as three and one-half years.

Senator Hastings: I am acquainted with one particular individual at three and one-half years who is doing exceptionally well. I was wondering how many would go that low. In some cases, it is an indication they are quite ready for parole in three and one-half years.

The Chairman: It is now after 12:30. Are you satisfied with the information we have obtained from Mr. Street and his colleagues at the moment?

Senator Hastings: Yes, subject to recall.

The Chairman: Yes, he will be available if we need him.

I thank Mr. Street and the members of his staff who are present for their help this morning and on previous occasions, as well as during the time which has passed between our meetings. Thank you very much indeed.

The committee adjourned.