

This new provision of the Act is based on the view that if a person selected for parole requires counselling and supervision, those persons who are not so selected need such counselling and supervision even more. It is the intention of the Parole Board to provide to persons released under mandatory supervision the same level of support, counselling and assistance as is available to persons on parole.

This expansion of our program has not had an appreciable impact on the workload of the staff to the present beyond activities which our officers have undertaken in the institutions to explain the conditions and prepare inmates who anticipate release under these provisions early in the new year. Commencing in January 1972, it is estimated that some seventy persons will be released from the federal penitentiaries under mandatory supervision each month. Since we now parole approximately 3,000 from the penitentiaries each year, representing about 50% of the total population, the cumulative effect of mandatory supervision will be to increase the total number of persons under the authority of the Parole Board by about 3,000. This will represent a very substantial increase to the total workload of the Parole Service.

Temporary or Day Parole

One of the most promising developments in the last few years is an expanded use of what is known as temporary or day parole. This is simply an arrangement whereby a prisoner can be released from the prison in the morning, returning at night or for several days returning to the prison on weekends or by other special arrangements.

This type of parole is employed for two main purposes:

1. It can serve to allow continuity of employment or education, where disproportionately serious consequences would result, such as loss of long-term employment, or loss of a year of studies through inability to complete a term or write examinations.
2. Temporary parole is also used as a preconditioning for full parole and is frequently employed to test an inmate's ability to function in society and assist his re-integration by employment, attendance at retraining courses, etc.

Since persons on temporary or day parole are kept in very close control by the fact that they must report back to the prison at night or for weekends, parole failures in these circumstances are few and persons released in this way can easily be returned to prison if they are unwilling to abide by the conditions under which they are released. In 1970, the Board granted over 700 temporary and day paroles. This year, it is expected that the number will exceed 1,300.

Several provinces have established work release programs for employment and retraining of persons incarcerated in provincial institutions. They are able to do this under the provisions of the Prisons and Reformatories Act. These programs appear to be highly successful. There is a close collaboration between the provincial authorities and the Parole Board, since temporary release under a provincial program is frequently followed by parole.

Research and Pilot Projects

A research project has been jointly sponsored by the Penitentiary Service and the Parole Service to establish

a diagnostic and treatment plan on an ability study basis which will closely integrate the activities of both our agencies in planning and carrying through the program aimed at effective planning, treatment and supervision of a selected group from the time of their sentencing to discharge from parole.

Officers of the Board are participating in a variety of community projects including development of residential facilities, training courses and programs in community colleges, retraining and employment projects, and participation in community councils of welfare and social service agencies.

In conclusion, I may say that all of our efforts and activities are based on the following premises:

1. Every person who is sentenced to prison and who gives a definite indication of his intention to reform should be given the opportunity to return to society and accept his responsibilities as a law-abiding citizen. It is a matter of helping those who want to help themselves.
2. Unless an inmate is serving a sentence of life imprisonment, he will be released sooner or later whether we like it or not. It is surely much more desirable for all concerned, and the public is better protected if he comes out of prison on parole because he is under control and can be assisted with his problems, and he is also on parole for his remission time, which is one third of his sentence.
3. Society is better protected under a system of parole than otherwise. The prisoners are encouraged to think in terms of reform in order to obtain parole. They are then selected for parole because we think there is a reasonable chance that they will reform. Then, if they are released on parole they cannot easily return to crime whereas if they are released at the end of their sentence, there is nothing to stop them from returning to crime except the vigilance of the police.
4. The dual purpose of parole is the protection of the public and the rehabilitation of the offenders. We would not release a person on parole unless we thought there was a reasonable chance that he would reform and if we considered him to be dangerous, he would not be released at all.
5. The key to success in the treatment of criminals would be adequate control as soon as a person commits an offence, for as long as necessary, but no longer than necessary. Wherever possible or feasible, he should be kept in society and required to work, support his dependents and contribute to the economy of the country. If he cannot be properly controlled in society, then he must be placed in custody.
6. Since parole and probation are about 75% successful, there should be more treatment and control in the community than imprisonment which is often harmful and should be used only as a last resort and only for those who cannot be treated or controlled in any other way.
7. Rehabilitation of offenders is the surest means of protecting the public against recidivism. It is to everyone's advantage to encourage and help with this process.

The Parole Board hopes that we shall continue to merit the support of the public in our efforts to achieve these results.