

not asking you to assess that practice. But, from the point of view of the Parole Board, would this make matters any easier?

Mr. Street: Well, it is none of my business, but I think it is an excellent type of sentence and it is long overdue. I used to do it twenty years ago, when I did not have the authority to do it! If it saved a man his job I would do it, in any event.

Senator Buckwold: As part of the overall system of dealing with criminals?

Mr. Street: Yes, otherwise the best you can do is if a man receives a sentence of thirty days for drunk driving, or two weeks, if we are going to save him his job we have to give him day parole which will let him out during the day. We can still do this. However, this will overcome the necessity of following that procedure. He can serve seven weekends instead of a two-week period and still maintain his job. This will not affect us.

Senator Buckwold: My last question is of a general nature, in view of the fact this may be the last time we shall see you for a little while.

Mr. Street: I shall be around.

The Chairman: He will be around. This is the last time he is formally invited to be present, but he will be around.

Senator Buckwold: The purpose of this committee is to study the parole system generally. I was wondering whether you are prepared to make a general statement as to what, in your opinion, should be done to improve the system. For example, you have already indicated you could use more staff and better trained people. Over and above that, would you have any general opinion as to how the system could be improved, which would involve new approaches and an improvement of the liaison between the people concerned—all the matters we have been discussing today?

The Chairman: I might remark at this point, Senator Buckwold, that Mr. Street has expressed a desire, which I am very happy to hear, to be present at as many of our hearings as we will allow him to attend. It occurs to me, in any event, that after we have heard all the evidence and towards the end of our hearings, we could probably have him and possibly others of his staff return.

Senator Buckwold: I thought this might be my last opportunity.

The Chairman: I have a feeling that that type of question might more usefully be put at a later stage.

Senator Buckwold: Could I leave it that it is postponed? I hope, however, that at some time this committee will hear the thoughts of Mr. Street and his colleagues, so that we can proceed with the best possible review including consideration of parole systems in other countries.

Mr. Street: Thank you, senator; this is like meeting Santa Claus.

Senator Buckwold: The ultimate will not be possible and we will never arrive at the ideal, but I think we may have some progressive thinking.

The Chairman: When we have received the very type of information to which you refer we will have another session with Mr. Street and ask for his practical reactions to the various aspects.

Senator Thompson: I wish further to discuss Senator Buckwold's first question. In my opinion the Parole Board becomes involved in areas for which it has no responsibility. Do you have a budget for public relations and, if so, an information officer or program?

Mr. Street: We have an information officer, Mr. Parkinson, who is in attendance here today. We could do a great deal more in the field of public relations and are at some pains to appear on television, speak on radio and hold press conferences. We also make speeches at various functions and deliver lectures.

Senator Thompson: Could you tell me the amount of the budget and something of the program?

Mr. Street: I know of no budget. We are simply allowed to hire an information officer. I suppose his salary constitutes our budget.

Senator Thompson: Could I ask you a series of questions?

Is any part of this program directed towards changing the attitude of the public towards acceptance of the parolee?

Is any part of this information program devised to be used for teaching civics in public schools?

What part of it is specifically addressed to the mass media?

Because Senator Williams raised this point, I am interested in what specially designed information program you have for informing native associations and organizations and native offenders with respect to parole?

Mr. Street: We do as much as we can in all those areas. We have no specific program for giving lectures at civics classes. We have, however, recently received a request to which we will respond. We speak to anyone who will listen to us, so there is a good deal of public speaking by our entire staff throughout the country. Members of the board and its staff in Ottawa also take part.

The whole idea of the program is to inform the public as to our function and operations, and to give them the understanding that our function is rehabilitation. I do not think we can achieve anything near the desired or possible result. We keep in constant touch with the media and are available at any time they wish to speak to us which, unfortunately, seems to be only when something goes wrong. When I and other members travel we hold press conferences in cities other than Ottawa.

I believe I have answered your question with respect to the budget. There is no special budget, except the appointment of an information officer and the printing of pamphlets for the guidance of magistrates, judges, police, the public and supervisors.

As for the native population, we have at least eight Indian officers in the western offices. Our staff keep in touch with the tribes, councils and reservation authorities. Again, there is no limit to the requirements in that field.