

Senator Hastings: And could you explain "Parole Reserved"?

Mr. Street: This occurs when the Board is waiting for reports. In other words, they do not want to tell the inmate that he is not going to be paroled, because the report might be favourable to the inmate. The board could be waiting for a psychiatric report or a psychologist's report, or some information which they need in order to make their decision.

The Deputy Chairman: That seems to complete the hearing stage. Is everyone satisfied with the information?

Senator Thompson: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if Mr. Street could describe what exactly takes place at a hearing?

Is the classification officer present at the hearing, and does the inmate know what the classification officer's report contains? In other words, is he allowed to see the report?

Mr. Street: I believe he is.

Mr. Stevenson is here and perhaps he will correct me if I say anything with which he disagrees. He handles more of these hearings than I do.

Generally speaking, senator, I believe the inmate knows, in a general way, what is in the report. In other words, he knows whether it is favourable or unfavourable. I think it is the duty of those dealing with the inmate to give him some idea of how he is getting along or of what is contained in the report, without necessarily giving him too many details which would compromise the person giving such information. In that sense I think the inmate has a fairly accurate idea of what is contained in the report. He may not actually see the full report, but he has some idea of what it contains.

Mr. Stevenson, do you agree with that statement, or is that going too far?

Mr. B. K. Stevenson (Member, National Parole Board): I agree with your statement.

Mr. Street: Some of the information contained in the report has to be considered on a confidential basis. If the classification officer revealed negative information it could endanger another inmate's life or the life of a guard.

Senator Thompson: Yes, I appreciate that.

Assuming the parole officer is also present and he makes it known that, in his judgment, the inmate should not be released until he is further rehabilitated, but the Board, in its wisdom, decides that the inmate should be released, would that inmate have difficulty working with the parole officer? Does that happen at all?

Mr. Street: I suppose it could happen because the Board certainly is not bound by the recommendation of a parole officer. I would say that the number of cases where the Board disagrees with the assessment of the officers concerned is less than 10 per cent.

Senator Thompson: Is there a feeling, Mr. Street, on the part of the inmates that they do not get a fair hearing because they do not see all of the reports?

Mr. Street: Occasionally an inmate does write to me saying that he did not get a fair hearing. This does not happen very often, but when it does I refer it to the members of the Board concerned.

Generally speaking, I think the inmates are pleased to appear before the Board, and I believe they do get a fair hearing. You know as well as I do that you cannot please everyone.

Senator Gouin: I should like to know whether there is a psychologist's report contained in the file of an inmate?

Mr. Carabine: In some cases, yes, but not in all cases, except with respect to intelligence and perhaps with respect to personality. Those are tests as opposed to individual interviews.

In cases where an inmate has asked to see a psychologist or if he has been consulting a psychologist or a psychiatrist, then these reports would be in his file.

Senator Gouin: Is there a psychologist attached to the Board?

Mr. Street: Not other than Mr. Carabine.

That is right, is it not, Mr. Miller?

Mr. F. P. Miller (Executive Director, National Parole Board): There are some members on our staff who are trained in psychology, but we do not hire people specifically as psychologists.

The Deputy Chairman: Do I understand that the psychologist's report is limited to the inmate's intelligence?

Mr. Carabine: His intelligence and his personality.

The Deputy Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Carabine: That is with respect to routine availability, but in certain selected cases, and there are a number, additional reports may be required. Every inmate does not have a psychological or psychiatric report as a blanket routine thing.

The Deputy Chairman: If a man is convicted of a sexual offence, would you automatically have a psychiatrist or a psychologist examine him and make a report, or do you deal with that type of individual without a report?

Mr. Carabine: I would say there have been sex offenders dealt with without a psychologist's report, but I think this would be a rare event. In the vast majority of cases concerning sex offenders we would either have a psychologist's report or a psychiatrist's report. We sometimes have as many as three and even more reports in the case of individuals who have been determined to be dangerous sex offenders.

Senator Goldenberg: Mr. Street, do the members of the Board ever run into the problem of having to distinguish between the inmate who is a con artist and a good talker and those who lack those characteristics?

Mr. Street: Yes, I am sure they do. Of course, we can be conned too, because I am not suggesting we do not make mistakes in judgment. If the man is going to do that, he will have to con many people. I would say that generally