

- (d) to prepare for, or undertake, examinations, assessments or evaluations (where facilities are not available within the institution),
- (f) to engage in socio-cultural activities, such as music, art, drama performances, as a participant or spectator,
- (g) to engage in community service projects of an individual or group nature,
- (h) to make interim arrangements regarding personal business activities, and
- (i) to participate in sports (recreational) activities.

But there are two "rehabilitative" reasons unacceptable to the Committee. First, Section 8 (2)(b) of the Directive states:

to have pre-arranged interviews with prospective employers, landlords, sponsors and others, to enhance potential success upon parole or mandatory supervision.

If temporary absence is an institutional matter which has no necessary effect on the inmate's parole, then an absence for such a reason is inappropriate. It may lead an inmate to believe that parole is forthcoming. We suggest that, since this reason is more related to full release under parole conditions, it should more appropriately be the responsibility of the parole authorities to arrange such absences. Secondly, Section 8 (2) (e) states:

to visit within the immediate community to ease the transition from confinement to freedom.

This implies a gradual release and suggests that the inmate may anticipate parole. If this reason is deemed wise for one particular inmate, it should be authorized and administered through the parole authorities.

The acceptable reasons listed above for all three types of temporary absence are obviously situations of a very limited duration. We are convinced that there should be no provision for "back-to-back" temporary absences since continuous absence constitutes parole and is therefore the responsibility of the parole authorities. Temporary absence provisions should not become, as they have in the past and are now in some provincial systems, substitutes for parole.

The reasons for the absences outlined apply only to inmates in penitentiaries. We feel that provinces should regulate temporary absence procedures in a similar manner since, at the present time, extended absences are common in provincial systems. The establishment of provincial parole boards will bring about the same conflict of roles and repeat the problems encountered in the federal system recently.

ELIGIBILITY FOR TEMPORARY ABSENCES. Temporary absences for medical or humanitarian reasons are situational and unpredictable and there is no need to regulate when an inmate becomes eligible. Any inmate should be granted temporary absence for either reason should the need arise. If penitentiary or prison authorities fear there is a risk in granting temporary absence to certain inmates, they may provide escort. Temporary absences for rehabilitative reasons are more predictable and should be determined by, and contribute to the inmate's adjustments.

Recommendation

46. Temporary absence, from time to time, as provided in the *Penitentiary Act* and *Prisons and Reformatories Act*, should be retained but "from time to time" should not be