

can sit in. They may have been interviewing the man for some time, they know him. They can contribute something to our discussion, so we allow them to come in.

Senator Quart: They actually assist the application for parole?

Mr. Stevenson: Yes, right.

Senator Quart: Do the chaplains sometimes take part?

Mr. Stevenson: Yes, we have had chaplains in too. In fact, I think it is in Springhill that they take a particular interest; they ask to come in and sit through it, and the inmate is very happy to see him there.

Senator Quart: I am sure he is.

Senator Thompson: Do you travel across Canada?

Mr. Stevenson: Yes, we do, with about 10 to 12 trips a year, lasting about two weeks each, with an average of 150 cases each time. I do not hesitate to say it is a heavy schedule. This is why I am away from home close to two weeks each month, and for a man with a family it is very difficult.

Senator Goldenberg: I want to revert to the situation we talked about earlier, which has troubled me for a long time. You have told us, Mr. Stevenson, that if two men apply for parole, you may find both are equally qualified in personality, change and so on, but one has what you call community acceptance and the other has not. The one who is qualified and has community acceptance is granted parole. The man who is unfortunate enough not to have community acceptance is denied parole; he has to complete his term. Does he not emerge a much more dangerous person? I am using the word "dangerous" but . . .

The Deputy Chairman: Difficult.

Senator Goldenberg: Yes, a more difficult person than would otherwise be the case?

Mr. Stevenson: I agree it would have a negative effect on him. Can we use the term "community resources" rather than "community acceptance"?

Senator Goldenberg: Yes, community resources.

Mr. Stevenson: He has no family resources, friends and so on. He feels less and less a part of society, and I am sure that when he comes out he will not make nearly as good an effort as if he had been released on parole.

Senator Goldenberg: So that by sending him back to complete his term you are really making him a worse citizen.

Mr. Stevenson: Right. But what else can we do? Would you release him to no resources with a fairly good likelihood that he is going to violate and come back, and then all we do is add more time to his sentence?

Senator Goldenberg: What happens is that he goes back, finishes his term, and then when released, being a more difficult person, he may commit a more violent offence and return.

Mr. Stevenson: Very often we try to leave the door open. We say, "Write to somebody. Try to find somebody who will give you a hand. See the John Howard Society, see the Salvation Army; see if they will give you some help in making a post-release plan".

Senator Goldenberg: Do you refer a case like that to the John Howard Society, the Salvation Army, or any other organization?

Mr. Stevenson: The classification officer is there, the parole officer is there; they would both take cognizance of that.

Senator Thompson: Just to clarify the expression "community resources", I assume that is lack of a job, lack of family support.

Mr. Stevenson: Lack of a place to stay. There are now these halfway houses which, fortunately, are coming into existence. These provide for men who cannot go back to their families, and in fact it would be the worst thing for them to do to go back. So a halfway house is a great place, and more and more of them are coming into existence.

Senator Goldenberg: There is an organization called, I think, the X-Kalay Foundation in Vancouver. Does that help to solve the problem I am talking about?

Mr. Stevenson: Sometimes.

Senator Laird: And the St. Leonard's organization.

Mr. Stevenson: Yes, there are many of them across the country which have grown up recently.

Senator Thompson: Taking the individual who I feel is most unfairly treated by our society, the one I have been talking about, would you refer him to an organization—assuming this was in Vancouver—an organization like the X-Kalay one?

Mr. Stevenson: Yes, I think so. If we felt that what they had to offer was what he needed.

Senator Buckwold: The question I should like to ask may have been asked before. This is my first attempt at this committee meeting. I am trying to get the role of the provincial jails as against the federal penitentiaries and the Parole Board.

The Deputy Chairman: I wonder if we could leave that, senator, because that is really another subject. There will be an opportunity again.

Senator Buckwold: Thank you.

The Deputy Chairman: We have the answer to Senator Fergusson's question now.

Mr. Street: Senator Fergusson, it appears that the last year for which complete detailed statistics are available was 1969, and they indicate that we granted parole to 130 lady prisoners in that year and that we refused parole to 36 in that year. So it would appear that the Board members were very big hearted with the fair sex!

Senator Fergusson: Thank you.