

Senator Buckwold: At our last meeting we heard reference to the problems of staff, which has again arisen this morning. You indicated that you need more staff, and then made a rather interesting observation respecting longer tenure which means, I presume, that you experience a fairly rapid rate of turnover?

Mr. Stevenson: No, I am sorry; I was not implying that, senator. However, I found in my own experience that the longer staff members remain the more efficient they become.

Senator Buckwold: I gathered from your remarks that normally the tenure was not long enough. I should like to develop this aspect. Do you, in fact, have a rapid staff turnover? Do conditions, salaries, et cetera, make it difficult for you to obtain or keep staff?

Mr. Street: Perhaps Mr. Miller could answer that question. There is a rapid staff increase. We have a lot of new staff. I think that generally our tenure is quite long.

The Chairman: Once you get them, you keep them?

Mr. Street: Yes, we do.

Senator Buckwold: That clarifies my concern. Obviously, the staff situation will be of major concern to the committee.

Mr. Street: We are very lucky, senator, in that we represent the more pleasant and positive side of the work. We are able to recruit people more easily than, for instance, penitentiaries, because most people like to work with successful cases and inmates rather than in institutions. We do not have much loss of staff, but we have had a fairly rapid expansion in the last few years.

Senator Buckwold: Do you have any statistics of the number of your staff, say, over the last five years?

Mr. Street: I have some statistics for this year.

Senator Buckwold: If that information is not available, perhaps it could be provided. I am referring to the period of the past five years, to staff increases, type of staff, category of jobs, and the turnover of staff. We would be interested in receiving that.

The Chairman: I believe Mr. Street has some figures with him.

Mr. Street: The total establishment for this year is 475, of which 206 are officers in the field, regional or district officers. Two years ago the figure was 300, of which only 116 officers were in the field. There has been an increase therefore of about 90 officers. The number has almost doubled. We are doing this partly because of the increase in work, and to contend with mandatory supervision which is now coming into effect.

Senator Hastings: How many of those 80 or 90 are engaged on mandatory supervision?

Mr. Street: No one person is assigned to mandatory supervision, which is just barely starting. We estimate that about 30 persons a month will be coming out on mandatory supervision.

Senator Williams: Which province would have the greatest share of that 475?

Mr. Street: I am not sure if it would be British Columbia or Quebec. We would have to sort that out. I have the figures written down, but we would have to calculate that. British Columbia has five offices, but so also does Quebec and Ontario.

The Chairman: We will get that information, senator.

Senator Buckwold: Could I explore the manpower aspect a little further? I gather from what has been said that staff is a problem, yet, from statistics which have already been given us, we have seen a remarkable growth over the last two years. On the other hand, one might receive the impression that in spite of the almost doubling of the staff, the kind of progress that we would like to see in the system is not necessarily being achieved, particularly in dealing more rapidly and more thoroughly with cases. Is this question of staff the answer to the problem?

Mr. Street: The major part of it is, yes. However, there is in addition a rapid increase in the number of cases we are dealing with. In the first month of this year we dealt with 1,420 cases. In January a year ago the figure was only 1,027. Between this January and last, there was an increase, therefore of 400 cases in one month. That does not necessarily mean 400 people applying, but 400 different types of decisions which had to be made by the board in the month of January. The number of people who do not apply for parole is diminishing. In January of last year the figure was 55, but this year it was 41.

The Chairman: Those are people who have reached their parole eligibility date, but who have indicated that they were not interested in receiving parole?

Mr. Street: Yes. That applies to federal prisons only. Of course, that system will no longer apply, because we will now have mandatory supervision.

Senator Hastings: Have you given any consideration to using the RCMP for such purposes?

Mr. Street: No.

Senator Hastings: Have you found them helpful in the administration of the Criminal Records Act?

Mr. Street: I do not think they would want to do it, even if we wanted them to do so; they have enough to do.

Senator Thompson: I think it was Senator Buckwold who asked a question in connection with a young person in the penitentiary who asked for parole. It was found that community resources were not available. The person concerned had written to his family, but could not obtain a job. Unfortunately, neither could he obtain parole. In reading about that incident during the recess, I could not help thinking that we have in Canada an Immigration Department with branches across the country. People come here from Tibet, Czechoslovakia, and so on, and all these resources are available to help assimilate such people into the life of the community. When a question was asked about the relationship with unions, I was interested to learn that a parole officer said that he had seen one union leader himself, but that he did not know what was the