

will remain in the insane asylum—I hope not—because it could happen unless there is more warm and humanitarian thinking on the part of at least some of the members of the parole board, instead of the ice water which seems to circulate on many occasions.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that all these questions, which are vital because we are dealing with human lives, will be considered in a modern and reasonable manner. There is just one other point I should like to mention and, that is the guards. As I have said, these are bad boys who are in the penitentiary. Some of them are very cute, very brilliant and very vicious. I wish hon. members could see the weapons they make—the stilettos, the daggers and the imitation guns. They should see, as I have, some of the guards when they have been slashed, or the guard who had his hand blown off at Christmas time, and his son who lost an eye.

I believe a new policy is required in respect of our penitentiary system. We should not wait until somebody is caught with a weapon before arresting him. It must be made known as a definite policy to every inmate that there are severe penalties which they will receive if they are caught with a weapon. I am certain that if the penalties are made more severe—and I agree with this—and are made known, then many of the criminals would think twice before they would go ahead and forge these most vicious and dangerous weapons and attack the guards. I believe also there should be a government policy that whenever a guard is injured either on or off the job, because of his position and responsibility the department should accept the idea that he should be on full salary for life, because of the danger to which he is exposed in his employment.

I sincerely hope that these matters will be taken into consideration. Like the previous speaker I have the highest degree of confidence in the minister. I am certain that eventually he will get around to doing these things and I hope that then we will be able to have better legislation.

● (9:00 p.m.)

[Translation]

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Chairman, before starting my short remarks, it is possible and easy, I think, to obtain leave of the house to offer to the Solicitor General (Mr. Pennell) well deserved and quite appropriate congratulations for the excellent work he is doing in the discharge of his difficult duties. The Solicitor General performs with an unusual dash the

*Supply—Solicitor General*

difficult task which has been entrusted to him.

Mr. Chairman, before coming to the heart of the matter, may I be allowed to refer to a rather exceptional incident which occurred just a few days ago in this house, when an hon. member read to the house a certain message he had received, a quite mysterious message, the content of which it was hard to know. If, during consideration of the estimates of the Solicitor General, we have the right to talk about matters dealing with the implementation of the Criminal Code, I will say that I am quite in order when I mention that incident.

As evidenced by page 819 of the official report of June 1, 1967, the hon. member for Sainte-Marie (Mr. Valade) rose on a question of privilege and stated:

On the envelope and in the letter—

Which was addressed to him.

—abusive, slanderous and defamatory remarks had been written.

Mr. Chairman, section 249 of the Criminal Code says this:

A person publishes a libel when he

- (a) exhibits it in public,
- (b) causes it to be read or seen, or
- (c) shows or delivers it, or causes it to be shown or delivered, with intent that it should be read or seen by the person whom it defames or by any other person.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard):** I do not wish to interrupt the hon. member without having listened to him a little, but I think that, at the present time, we are studying the estimates of the Solicitor General of Canada (Mr. Pennell). Furthermore, the case he refers to has been the subject of a question of privilege in the house and I fail to see how it could be connected with the estimates of the Solicitor General.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Chairman, I am quite pleased with your remarks to which subscribe several members who have shown their approval by clapping. In fact, I think that you are perfectly right to wonder about the appropriateness of my remarks and their possible connection with the estimates of the Solicitor General.

However, Mr. Chairman, I conclude by saying that if someone is a victim of slander, especially a member of the House of Commons, I do not see why there should be any reluctance to ask the R.C.M.P. at a given time