

Supply—Justice

possible we endeavour to instil into these recruits the principles I have briefly outlined. We do also make a very serious attempt to maintain a close supervision of the activities particularly of the younger members of the force, and to counsel, advise and help them to discharge their duties in a responsible manner acceptable to the general public. While I do not deny that there are occasions—and we investigate those occasions—when things go wrong, I think in general the public of Canada is well served by the force and by the training system through which the recruits go before they are sent out to discharge their duties.

With regard to the question raised by the hon. member for Vancouver South, the new pension legislation which is now before the committee of the whole does contain a provision in clause 36 which I believe may be the answer to the problem he has outlined. If it is not out of order, perhaps I could just read it. If enacted it would read:

Where a person has, either before or after the coming into force of this subsection, suffered a disability as a result of any injury or disease or aggravation thereof that arose out of, or was directly connected with, his service in the force, he may be granted compensation, including medical and hospital expenses, at such rates and in such manner as the governor in council may prescribe.

That may take care of such cases, but of course the bill provides that the adjudication of such cases is the responsibility of the Canadian pension commission. It is for the commission to determine the extent of disability and whether or not a member is entitled to hospital treatment.

Mr. Fisher: The minister will remember that on previous occasions when his estimates were before the committee there was some discussion and some statements by him with regard to investigations carried out by the R.C.M.P., the directorate of security and intelligence and that aspect of the work of the force. He indicated that there was a considerable study going on in so far as the files kept on individuals are concerned, and especially in relation to the case which the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate brought up relating to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

In the past year I have had a number of cases brought to my notice which indicate to me that the amount and kind of investigation which the R.C.M.P. do in cases where they sometimes, for example, recommend that citizenship applications should not be allowed is really rather superficial, and some of the information that must be garnered, or at least the information that is garnered, hardly seems to me to be sufficient, judging from my conversations with people who have been turned down.

[Mr. Fulton.]

The one thing that has struck me about all those to whom I have talked whose applications have been turned down is that for the most part they are simple people. There is nothing complex about them; they have given me no indication of anything scheming or Machiavellian about them. I am thinking especially of the case I brought up in this house in connection with the Finnish organization of Canada and some of its cultural activities. There is no question at all in the minds of people at the lakehead that the Finnish organization has, to a certain extent, a connection with communism or communist organizations, but where you have an organization which is carrying on gymnastic activities, road racing and drama activities, and drawing people from the Finnish community into those innocuous activities, it does seem to me unwarranted that membership in that organization should be used in order to deny citizenship, and it does give rise to certain qualms.

I should like to ask the minister whether he is continuing the study of the files that are kept and of the role of the R.C.M.P. with regard to them. I should also like to ask him if he has considered further the suggestion made two years ago that this whole aspect of the functions of the R.C.M.P. should be divorced from that force and put under a separate staff under the Department of Justice. The logic of this move is, it seems to me, that the R.C.M.P. are engaged in a great many activities including common police work, and one of the most disturbing features in a number of cases going back through the parliamentary record is the fact that the ordinary constable trained in police work is quite often collecting information regarding activities of a possibly subversive nature. When you have 20-year olds or 22-year olds out gathering information and going from door to door around a neighbourhood in connection with someone who seems to be suspect, I think we can really doubt both the efficacy and fairness of this kind of procedure. I think this is a very good point in favour of the suggestion that the whole of this anti-subversion work and intelligence work be divorced from this police force and put into the hands of specialists who would be directly answerable to the Minister of Justice. I should be very interested in the minister's comments on these remarks.

Mr. Fulton: The type of investigation to which the hon. member has referred in his closing remarks would, I imagine, be a routine security check which would not involve a high degree of judgment in assessing the information. The hon. member knows that we are called upon from time to time to report upon the activities and associations of