happens to Chief Superintendent René Jean Bélec and Sub-Inspector Joseph Hosanna Maurice Poitras? We have never been given the facts about these two former officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, both of whom were stationed in Montreal. I am told that René Jean Bélec was the highest ranking officer in the Quebec division of the R.C.M. Police. I am told that Sub-Inspector Joseph Hosanna Maurice Poitras was in charge of drug investigations and rode herd over all the drug investigators of the R.C.M.P. during the last few months of his service with the R.C.M.P. But for causes never made known to the people of Canada the two of them were placed on the shelf for a while last fall. Interestingly enough it was during the fall that these accusations about drug peddling came to the fore. But they were not retired, they were just placed on the shelf, early in September, I believe.

• (6:20 p.m.)

I have in my hand what is certified to be a true copy of a minute of a meeting of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on December 8, 1964. It says:

The Committee of the Privy Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice, advise that Chief Superintendent René John Bélec of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, promoted to that rank effective October 1, 1963 by Order in Council P.C. 1963 31/1477 of 10th October, 1963, be compulsorily retired from the Force to promote efficiency.

"To promote efficiency" is not a phrase used in the R.C.M.P. Superannuation Act. The Superannuation Act refers to "an officer who is retired compulsorily for any cause other than misconduct or inefficiency". So here is a cause other than misconduct or inefficiency, the cause being "to promote efficiency."

We are told that there were defalcations of public moneys, or the false administration of public moneys, by these two men while officers of the R.C.M.P. We are not told this officially, we have to pick it up. But we are not given any open reason why these two men were retired.

The second order in council is the same date, and is certified to be a true copy of a minute of a meeting of the Committee of the Privy Council. It says:

The Committee of the Privy Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice, advise that Sub-Inspector Joseph Hosanna Maurice Poitras of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, promoted to that rank effective October 15th, 1963 by Order in Council P.C. 1963-28-1547 of 24th October, 1963, be compulsorily retired from the Force to promote efficiency.

I say there is something very peculiar when the words of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act are not followed to the letter. We are asked to observe the letter of the law. We appoint judges to the bench and employ police forces to get people to observe the letter of the law. Why not observe the letter of the law here instead of passing orders in council that give reasons for retiring people so that they can enjoy pensions which, if they were retired compulsorily for misconduct or inefficiency, would be withheld from them?

I also have a document which indicates why they were struck off strength, shall I say. The hon. Member for Fraser Valley talked of poor pensions for certain classes of people. This does not include former Chief Superintendent Bélec, because I have here an order in council relating to him. This is certified to be a true copy of a minute of a meeting of the Treasury Board, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on February 11, 1965. I point out this is the first opportunity I have had to speak on this matter. This Order in Council states:

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

The Board recommends as follows:

Chief Superintendent René John Bélec, who was compulsorily retired from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force to promote efficiency on December 8, 1964, be granted, pursuant to sections 27(1) and 44 of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Pension Continuation Act, a pension of $6,624.00 per annum, based on his good and faithful service in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force from June 27, 1933 to December 1957 and effective December 9, 1964.

With regard to Mr. Poitras, this gentleman really has a pension which strikes me as a "beaut". I hold in my hand an Order in Council dated February 11, 1965 which reads as follows:

Sub-Inspector Joseph Hosanna Maurice Poitras, who was compulsorily retired from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force to promote efficiency—

You see how they get around the words of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act.

—on December 8, 1964, be paid, under the provisions of Section 10(3) of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act, an immediate annuity at the rate of $1,562.80 per annum from December 9, 1964, until such date as he attains the age of 65 years and thereafter at the rate of $1,953.50 per annum.

So he gets an increase of almost $400 a year when he turns 65 through this pension which was forced on him to promote the efficiency of the force, effective December 8,