

*Supply—Justice*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The hour for consideration of private members business has expired. The house will now resume the business interrupted at six o'clock.

**SUPPLY**

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Batten in the chair.

**The Chairman:** Order. The house again in committee of supply. It being seven o'clock I do now leave the chair.

At seven o'clock the committee took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

[*Translation*]

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. The house in committee of supply, estimates of the Department of Justice for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1968.

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Chairman, my first words will be to pay a well deserved tribute to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Trudeau) and it is always a dangerous business to do that in view of his great humility. I do not think it is too much to say that he is one of the most brilliant newcomers to government in recent months and we are proud to see him work in public life in such an effective and dynamic manner.

Here are the few questions I want to ask. First of all, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice to what extent the federal government is willing, while respecting the jurisdictions concerned, to take the initiative or to suggest to the provinces to set up a compensation system on behalf of the individuals or families who have been the victims of criminals.

In recent years, several measures have been proposed to alleviate the lot of criminals, of prisoners. It is clear that science, like sociology, has made enough progress to indicate that certain steps in that direction are imperative.

Furthermore, or rather along the same lines, we should have generous thoughts for victims of criminals.

Often we see films and television programs showing the acts that weigh on the conscience of a convict shortly to be led to the scaffold. But never are we shown in such

films or programs the sorry fate of the families of policemen who died on the field of honour, in the accomplishment of their duty.

So I urge, with all possible energy, the government to take the necessary steps to have in Canada a system of compensation to help the victims of criminals or the families of those victims who died as a result of a crime being committed.

My second question to the minister is as follows: he is aware that the province of Quebec recently established a commission to inquire into the administration of justice? Could he tell me to what extent the Department of Justice is co-operating with the commission recently appointed by the provincial government in this connection?

Thirdly, could he tell me whether in the master legislation he intends to bring before the house shortly, for the purpose of revising the Criminal Code, it is considered to abolish section 149 of the Criminal Code, thus following the example of the British parliament when it passed a legislation regarding homosexuality? And I can speak about it with complete objectivity since I can never lay myself open to malicious criticism.

Mr. Chairman, another question I should like to put to the minister deals with the constitutional problem. The Minister of Forestry and Rural Development (Mr. Sauvé) announced some time ago the intention of the federal government to show the greatest possible latitude during the forthcoming federal-provincial conference and to accept discussion on the widest possible subjects necessarily related to the constitutional problems. Proceedings will not be restrictive but rather made as general as possible.

I should like to know if since its new intention has been announced through the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development the federal government has received from the various provincial authorities recommendations or suggestions regarding the subjects to be discussed at the federal-provincial conference in January of next year.

This afternoon, I had the opportunity of asking the minister if the famous two-nation concept, which is the basic policy in constitutional matters, has become the major theory of the Conservative party. The member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) and the others supported the two-nations theory. I should like to know to what extent the provincial governments have indicated to the federal Minister of Justice their intention of undertaking the study of that matter and the