

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

crimes. In July last the state of New York brought in a compensation fund for the innocent victims of violent crimes. In the case of New Zealand, payment is made in stated amounts over a period of time to those people who are being compensated by the state. In Great Britain they are paid one lump sum. In New York state it was ordered that they be paid one lump sum not exceeding \$15,000, as it was felt that some people might commit crimes in order to benefit their family if the payments are going to be spread over a long number of years.

Here in Canada if a man is killed by a motor vehicle and the car owner does not have insurance or any estate the victim's family gets paid from the unsatisfied judgment fund. If he is killed by a motorcar the victim's family can collect money, but if he is killed by murder they get nothing unless he happens to be a policeman, in which case the R.C.M.P. or local police funds will compensate his family or his widow.

I sincerely hope that the cabinet will bear in mind the fact that this policeman gave his life for his country. The cabinet established a pension of \$6,624 for chief superintendent René John Bélec who was compulsorily retired by the cabinet some time ago, and a pension of \$1,562.80 per year for sub-inspector Joseph Hosanna Maurice Poitras of Montreal who was compulsorily retired. I would ask the cabinet to bear those figures in mind when they are establishing the pension for this young widow in Edmonton.

I hope it will be in the nature of \$6,000 which we are now paying to former chief superintendent Bélec because such a pension

would establish a precedent for the families of all the innocent victims of criminal acts in this country. We must in short order have legislation of that type on the nation's books.

**Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. member will acquit me of disrespect but I must point out that the matter of compensation to victims of crime does not come within the ministerial responsibility of the Solicitor General. However, I will be pleased to bring this question to the attention of my colleague, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Cardin).

So far as the widow of the member of the R.C.M.P. who was killed in Edmonton is concerned, I should like to advise the house that a claim is being made on her behalf to the Canadian Pension Commission under section 27(1) of the R.C.M.P. Superannuation Act. Under that act a pension is payable to the widow of a member whose death arose out of or was connected directly with his service in the force.

Before a pension becomes payable it must be ruled by the Canadian Pension Commission that death arose out of or was directly connected with the services of the R.C.M.P. constable while in the force. The matter is now before the Canadian Pension Commission and we expect a favourable ruling very shortly. The amount of the pension that will be paid will be determined by a schedule which is attached to the Pension Act, and I am not in a position to give that figure at this moment.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.40 p.m.

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