

Interim Supply

those donations and it is expected that he will be dependant upon social welfare within the next few months. He has been under continuous medical care, of course, since the accident, but at the present time it is obvious that his disability is permanent. There is little hope that he will ever be able to support his family. At the present time he is being considered for several awards for bravery and devotion to duty, but how empty these awards must be to a man of this type who was looking forward to a life of devotion to his medical practice. How inadequate a return this is to one who should be looking forward to the provision of a home and the education of his children.

Medical men with a proper humane attitude will never refuse a call to duty but the experience of this young man as already outlined gives rise to a very serious question. Should members of the medical profession, in taking such dangerous calls at the request of the police, demand the same protection as members of the police forces or members of the armed services who suffer accidents in the course of their duties are granted?

I submit this extraordinary case to the house for what may seem extraordinary humane considerations. I submit it, knowing full well that there is no legal obligation involved in the laws of our country as they now stand. But I submit it should receive every consideration on the basis of a moral claim which I hope will result in the maximum assistance to the one disabled and to his dependants. With all due respect, Mr. Chairman, I suggest that there is a time in our deliberations when we should consider extraordinary situations on the grounds of moral obligations and not necessarily on the basis of legal commitments. If ever a case demanded such consideration, that of Dr. Nigel Clark, who was injured on a call to duty by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, is outstanding. He should receive not only our sympathy but rather ample provision for financial assistance on a basis at least as ample as that provided for a member of the R.C.M.P.

I submit this case for urgent consideration at this time of interim supply and I ask the government to treat it as a moral obligation. I know that everyone in the house will agree that the case of Dr. Nigel Clark merits the most favourable and realistic assistance. I do ask that some immediate action for his relief be undertaken.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether I could make available to the committee some information—

Mr. Fairweather: If we could hear you it would be better.

Mr. MacEachen: I wonder whether I could take this opportunity to make available to the committee some information in connection with the Technical and Vocational Training Assistance Act.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, possibly the minister could wait until the conclusion of this matter because when a matter is being discussed it should be concluded. I should like to say a word with regard to the representation made by the hon. member for Kamloops.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, this is not the kind of motion where we have to stay with a subject, but if the Leader of the Opposition would like to follow the hon. member for Kamloops I would be happy to yield to him.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, the presentation that has been made by the hon. member for Kamloops is one that touches the heartstrings of all of us. The statement he made, objective, unadorned and without emotion, made an appeal to all members of the house. Indeed, in the years I have been here I have not heard a similar reaction on the part of hon. members as was evident a moment ago. I hope that the Minister of Justice will give earnest consideration to these representations. The hon. member has pointed out that there is no legal obligation, but there is something greater than that. When a member of the medical profession answers the call of duty and endangers not only his own life but also the happiness of his family a case is made out for an *ex gratia* payment. I am not going to say any more at this time, but this is an appealing case.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the hon. member for Kamloops for having raised this matter, with which I am sorry to say I am not familiar. It may well be that the hon. member has written to me about it though I must confess I have no recollection of it. I am sure the hon. member and the Leader of the Opposition as well will realize that there are a great many cases concerning not only officials of the Department of Justice but the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that come to my attention from time to time. I listened with interest to the remarks made by the hon. member and I can assure him that as soon as I get back to my office on Monday one of the first things I will do is to bring this question to the attention of the commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. Willoughby: May I express my thanks to the Minister of Justice. I brought this matter before the committee on the understanding that he was already familiar with it. I have correspondence in my file here in