

*Criminal Injuries Compensation Board*

of the cabinet, whom he has even accused of helping or being friends with murderers. I think that the hon. member went further than what he actually meant. He chose to resort to strong terms to express the dissatisfaction, well-founded, I think, he feels about certain attitudes.

I congratulate him warmly for the resolution he put on the order paper. I myself drew inspiration from it when I spoke briefly in the house on November 14, 1967, on the bill dealing with partial abolition of the death penalty.

The generous intention which inspires the hon. member for York-Humber deserves to be emphasized readily and with enthusiasm. Indeed, there is a marked tendency today; I wonder whether it is due to the evolution of human sciences. At all events, the hon member for Mercier (Mr. Boulanger) will correct me if I am mistaken; he is well versed in sociology and criminology, and being a psychoanalyst he may be in a position to give explanations concerning the alarming statements I may make. I seek his indulgence and ask him to bear with me when I say that the human sciences have evolved to the point where, sometimes, one wonders if there is not some exaggeration in the way criminals are treated. Human responsibility is a principle that no one will ever be able to eradicate. Freedom of choice is one thing...

**Mr. Mongrain:** Could I ask the hon. member a question?

**Mr. Choquette:** With the utmost pleasure.

**Mr. Mongrain:** The hon. member consulted the hon. member for Mercier and they seemed edified by the remarks of the hon. member for York-Humber. Has he had a chance to discuss with the hon. member for Mercier what impressed him most, the suggestion that a compensation board be set up or the suggestion that the hon. member resign and leave his seat vacant in York-Humber to become a member of the board?

• (5:40 p.m.)

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure of one thing: a great number of people would be quite pleased in fact if the hon. member for York-Humber had yearnings other than political yearnings.

**Mr. Grégoire:** Would the hon. member allow me a question?

**Mr. Choquette:** With great pleasure.

**Mr. Grégoire:** Since the problem seems to interest the hon. member for Lotbinière so much would he not take the opportunity of his stay in France to study what is done there in connection with compensation for the victims of criminals and report to us on his return? Perhaps that would be useful to us.

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Speaker, I would even be prepared to collect all the necessary funds in France to carry out an effective propaganda campaign in Canada to have the authorities support the resolution moved by the hon. member for York-Humber. And I will surely take that opportunity to—

**Mr. Grégoire:** I could give the hon. member for Lotbinière names to help him in his work.

**Mr. Choquette:** With pleasure. If I may continue with what I had started to say, I think that, at times, we show too much sympathy and we neglect the principle of free will which attends every human act. If human sciences push their conclusions too far, that is to the point of saying that any abnormal act must necessarily be explained away by psychoanalysis, the person who committed it thus being exonerated that will dangerously undermine the bases of any social order.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed very generous of the hon. member for York-Humber to think of the families of victims of criminals.

When we go to the movies or watch films on television, we are always shown terrifying scenes which should overcome the criminal, but when the time comes for him to pay for his crime, the situation is made so sad, so distressing, that one is inclined to exonerate him for his evil action which is prejudicial to social order.

But the lot of the families stricken by the situation created by the wrong-doers is always overlooked. How many shows or films have we seen in which there is a filmed sequence of three or four seconds when one or two policemen are killed, but when the criminal is shown being led to his cell, then his pitiful lot is overstressed.

That is what is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, and that is why we must applaud anyone who has a generous thought for the victims of criminals. It would be most appropriate if the present government, somewhat as the achievement of all the social legislation it has passed, were to consider that problem. It is