

may not always be right, but he is always the boss", will ring true more times than you will care to remember. You will be directed to do many unpleasant assignments which you may have an urge to rebel against, but think about it carefully before you do.

A mistake which is so evident is when policepersons lower themselves to the level of an undesirable citizen. A simple case being where the citizen swears at the police officer and is sworn back at by a constable who believes it is justified under those circumstances, or talking to someone believed to be a "goon" in a manner less than professional, because that person reacted negatively. If our members spoke to the public in a manner they would expect to be spoken to if they were that public, there would never be a problem.

Don't hesitate to volunteer your time, even though there is no obligation on your part. Like changing hours of work because someone is ill or away; offering to speak to a school class when someone else could not keep that appointment; take on a project of your capabilities which others hesitate to volunteer for, etc. These are valuable forms of measurement looked at by your supervisor.

A measurement of character which faces all public officials is their reputation before the courts. You may, unfortunately, hear testimony where the facts have been distorted by people or our members on the stand. Sometimes, because of poor notes or because they made a statement, or applied a judgment which is not exactly according to the rule, they find themselves too embarrassed to admit it. If you ever commit yourself to a position of making a mistake or saying the wrong thing because you did not know the answer, never compound it. It is not belittling to say

"From my experience, I have not faced that situation and I cannot answer you, but I will attempt to find out from someone else who does know."

Members of the Force are placed in the position of needing to decline invitations to events they may desire to be at, such as a beach party or a sports event, where liquor is consumed indiscriminately. If they are there, and any irregularities take place, they are either forced to take action or will be severely criticized from both inside and outside the Force. There is genuine reason for thought when an invitation is extended.

So many of our female members have limited themselves to having only male friends within the Force. In my view, this is a dangerous mistake, because a person's views become too narrow and friendships too close for the wrong reasons. What happens then is that personal life and work life become so entwined that in many instances, it becomes unmanageable. Give thought to never taking your personal life to the office and never allowing your work to affect your personal life. That may be far easier said than done, I can assure you.

I could go on and provide you with dozens of other scenarios which are delicate, but I have already taken a lot more of your time than I had intended.

Society needs policepersons out there, Laura, if we as citizens are to survive, but the emphasis is on good and loyal members who are looked up to and respected. We can do that individually, even if others around us have by their action, tarnished the image of the Force in some way.

My wish to you Laura is that your service in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is as rewarding as I