

*Supply—Solicitor General*

to investigate in order to clear up the matter and determine, if necessary, who might have committed an offence under section 249 of the Criminal Code. It is in that sense that this matter is related to the estimates of the Solicitor General, because the hon. member for Sainte-Marie (Mr. Valade) is known to have made three blunders. First, he wrongfully attacked the hon. member for Saint-Henri (Mr. Lessard) and he had to withdraw. Secondly, he involved the sergeant-at-arms who was not there to defend himself. Thirdly, he actually repudiated a former Conservative minister by saying that the note he received was abusive, since it referred to an association between the hon. member for Sainte-Marie and that former Conservative minister.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard):** Order, please. I would ask the hon. member to observe the ruling I gave him. He has been demonstrating for some time that the issue he is dealing with is within the jurisdiction of the house and that it should have been discussed at the time it was debated in this house a few days ago. I cannot see how it can possibly be related to the estimates of the Solicitor General and I would ask the hon. member to submit to my ruling.

**Mr. Choquette:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for having, shall we say, redirected the discussion.

Such being the case, I shall proceed with other remarks while maintaining that the implementation of the Criminal Code has nevertheless some relation with the R.C.M.P., especially when a member is involved. Now, since the R.C.M.P. is under the Solicitor General, it is quite normal that on the discussion of his estimates, the Solicitor General should be asked whether there is a possibility to call on the R.C.M.P. to clarify a situation involving a member who claims to have been slandered in such a way as to cause irreparable blunders and create uncertainty involving the whole house, which makes us the actual victims thereof.

Mr. Chairman, here are the comments I would like to make.

First, would it be possible to ask the hon. Solicitor General to find out how far the federal government could go in trying to have the provinces—notwithstanding the possibility of an initiative on the part of the federal government—pass legislation to provide a compensation for the victims, for the families which are victims of criminals?

[Mr. Choquette.]

Mr. Chairman, when we hear most interesting speeches on both sides, we find that, in our modern society, we tend to stress the sadness of the fate of criminals. Needless to say, criminals are human beings and society has the right and the duty to be concerned about them and see how it can rehabilitate them; however, there are victims of criminals, families are grieved because one of their members has been attacked by criminals, and it seems that nobody cares about those people. One even gets the impression that publicity, movies, television programs and newspaper articles are so devised as to secure pity for the criminals. Consideration must always be given to the criminal, but the victims are forgotten. Often, we see films revealing the odious of the murderer being taken to the electric chair or to the gallows but leaving aside the pitiful situation in which are left, for instance, the wife and children of the policeman who was shot down by a criminal.

To create a new climate, let us say, I feel it is imperative that the government take the initiative of introducing a measure to grant an indemnity to the victims and the family of the victims of criminals.

• (9:10 p.m.)

The second remark I would like to make is the following. The Quebec government has set up a royal commission on the administration of justice. That commission, of course, deals with the recrudescence and the repression of crime and it will, of necessity, come to conclusions that will be worded in such a way as to suggest amendments to the Criminal Code.

So, I believe that if the federal government were to send an observer to follow the proceedings of that commission, it would be of great benefit for, if I may repeat myself, the report of that commission will surely contain urgent suggestions that the Criminal Code be amended in various regards.

My third point, Mr. Chairman, has to do with the parole system. The director of the Quebec provincial police, Mr. Robert, who appeared a few weeks ago before the commission investigating the administration of justice in that province, expressed deep concern about the application of the parole policy and stated very strongly that in too many cases, too much haste is shown and decisions are taken without the cases being studied carefully, in other words, without enough thought being given to them. Moreover, barely a few days ago, a new judge of the Court of Sessions, who will sit in Quebec City, was appointed by