

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

being fired at, because he stopped the car, got out and with one rifle shot drilled the brains out of Blanc. Blanc had not been asked by the police to try and stop Smith, and his family collected nothing from the Ontario act. Is this fair? I say that the responsibility is on the federal cabinet and is not on the provincial government. I am getting fed up to the teeth hearing lawyers say this is a provincial responsibility and we should not try to put the responsibility on the federal cabinet.

All we are asked to do is keep the murderers in comfort. We are told that we should not hang them but should rehabilitate them. I have been wondering whether we should take the rifles away from prison guards and police. When the death sentence is commuted and a convicted murderer is put in the penitentiary, we are told the cabinet is trying to rehabilitate him. The Solicitor General says: Are we going to give up hope of ever rehabilitating this poor soul? If the guard has a rifle and the man the cabinet is rehabilitating endeavours to escape, what will you do with the guard if he shoots the fellow during the course of his rehabilitation because he is trying to escape? If we are to rehabilitate these people, as the cabinet wants done, we will have to take the rifles away from police and prison guards so they will not be able to cut a fellow short in the middle of his educational course.

● (5:20 p.m.)

To get back to Mr. Blanc who was drilled through the head, I render thanks unto God for the General Wingate branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. They set out to collect some funds to alleviate the sorrow and the misery in which the widow found herself. I believe the total came to something like \$1,700. But what is \$1,700 to a widow who has many years of life before her, and what is it to her family? The federal cabinet, which is so anxious to make the life of the convicted murderer serene, quiet and peaceful could not care less about the victim's family and about those who suffer, through no fault of their own, from the crime of the criminal. The cabinet is becoming known as the murderers' friend. I would prefer the cabinet to be known as the friend of innocent victims of criminal acts. I can not make it any more forceful than I have.

In the state of New York and in the state of California similar legislation was passed for the compensation of innocent victims. What are we waiting for? Do we want more

[Mr. Cowan.]

examples? We have the example of Great Britain, the site of the mother of parliaments, of New Zealand, and of the states of New York and California, the two states with the largest populations in the whole of the U.S.A.

What more examples do we want? Saskatchewan has given us a great example, and British Columbia has followed in a limited way. So will Manitoba; but I hope that province does not require the victims to get a conviction before they can collect. I hope Ontario will broaden the scope of its act, and I sincerely and from the bottom of my heart ask the federal cabinet to consider the expediency of introducing legislation for the creation of a compensation board. If it will give the cabinet any pleasure, I would be glad to act on that board. There can be a by-election called in York-Humber following my appointment to the board to hear the pleas of persons who have suffered injuries or disability as victims of criminal acts. We would award compensation to such persons or their dependants as would seem fair in the circumstances, and wherever possible it would impose on criminals the payment of compensation to those they have injured.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to speak on this resolution because I was not aware we would reach it this afternoon. However, I cannot help but say a few words in support of it. I think one of the most compelling arguments that is raised from time to time against dealing solely with the question of capital punishment, without relation to the ancillary matters that are raised, is this particular problem. One can hardly discuss the question of capital punishment and the treatment of persons who have committed crimes without discussing their victims.

I think we should start from the premise that both the crime and its consequences are related and should therefore be a matter of federal responsibility. I cannot see how anyone can argue otherwise. Second, I cannot see how anyone can say that it is our concern to deal with, punish or release the person who has committed an offence without at the same time dealing with the innocent victim. I cannot express more strongly than I have heretofore that I support this resolution. It is beyond me why the compensation of victims has not been brought into the laws of Canada, although I realize there are many gaps in our laws.

Perhaps there is a problem of federal and provincial jurisdiction; but if the government