

Interim Supply

the pensions were granted by the Government on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Cowan: My answer to that question is this. I read from an Order in Council which indicates that the Committee of the Privy Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice, dismissed one René John Bélec. A minute of a meeting of the Treasury Board states that the Board recommends the following:

Sub-Inspector Joseph Hosanna Maurice Poitras, who was compulsorily retired from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force to promote efficiency on December 8, 1964, be paid, under the provisions of Section 10(3)—

That would indicate that the Treasury Board made the recommendation. Does that answer your point? I am reading from Government documents which were produced in this House as a result of questions I asked some months ago.

I pointed out, Mr. Chairman, that the final week was not counted in respect of his pension. The 30 years service is used to calculate his pension in order to give him as big a pension as possible. They get around the Act in respect of the final week by retiring this man compulsorily to promote efficiency in the R.C.M.P. rather than for misconduct or inefficiency.

The hon. Member for Skeena in February drew attention to certain cases in respect of employees of the Indian Affairs Department. His questions were answered by the hon. Member for Fort William, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, in this way:

Where a person is suspected of the misappropriation of public funds or Crown owned property, and this is confirmed by investigation, it is the policy of the department to recommend dismissal.

I should like to know why that cannot be the policy of all departments of government. That is a good policy and I am glad to know it is the one followed by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. Where a person is suspected of misappropriation of public funds or Crown owned property, and this is confirmed by investigation, it is the policy of the department to recommend dismissal, and that is a good policy.

The second sentence of this answer is:

After consultation between this department and the law officers of the crown, the Department of Justice decides whether the evidence warrants prosecution.

Why should these poor devils working for the Indian Affairs Branch receive the full

treatment when it comes to dismissal from their employment for defalcation, yet some members of the R.C.M.P. are treated otherwise?

I stated before that I cannot make any comment on the Dorion report, and I will not, but I certainly can refer to the remarks of the hon. Member for Greenwood who said, when speaking yesterday:

I would say that politics is indeed in a sorry state when senior police officers accept as a matter of course that improper political interference may be made in the affairs of the administration of justice.

On Monday the hon. Member for Edmonton West related the pitiful cases of men by the names of Grant and Armishaw of the Indian Affairs division. Grant was charged that he overspent \$70,000 of Indian Affairs money to aid the Indians of the Yukon Territory. I do not intend to repeat what the hon. Member for Edmonton West said, as he covered the subject thoroughly and adequately and asked for answers to his questions before the House recessed. He emphasized the fact that although over \$70,000 was involved, this gentleman, Mr. Grant—I say “gentleman” and I mean “gentleman”, and when I first meet him I will shake him by the hand because he is a gentleman—was fined \$10 on each of six charges, with one day in jail as the alternative. I hope to God that the good people of Vernon, British Columbia, do not allow that gentleman to pay out that \$60 fine. If they do not raise the \$60, I should like to make a contribution to a fund so that Mr. Grant will not be put to that extra expense.

What happened to Mr. Grant? He has not been on the Government payroll for something like two years. Why do they not treat him in the same way as they treated the officers of the R.C.M.P.? If they did that, this poor fellow would not have to run a small grocery store in his advancing years, nor would his wife have to work as a nurse's aide in a nursing home in British Columbia. The interesting thing is that his co-conspirator, according to the charge read against him, was acquitted of all charges in the courts the day before yesterday, or at least that is the latest information I have read in the Edmonton newspapers.

I say to you, as a Member of the Liberal Party, that I will vote for this interim supply with a mighty heavy heart because I realize that some of the taxpayers' money is being diverted to pay pensions to the likes of former Inspector René John Bélec, the first commis-