

Adjournment Debate

Messrs.		
Lachance	Marceau	Prud'homme
Lajoie	Marchand	Railton
Lalonde	(Langelier)	Reid
Lang	Marchand	Richardson
Laniel	(Kamloops-Cariboo)	Robinson
Lapointe	McIsaac	Rompkey
Leblanc	McRae	Roy
(Laurier)	Milne	(Laval)
LeBlanc	Morin (Mrs.)	Sauvé (Mrs.)
(Westmorland-Kent)	Munro	Sharp
Lefebvre	(Hamilton East)	Smith
Loiselle	Nicholson (Miss)	(Saint-Jean)
(Chambly)	O'Connell	Stanbury
Loiselle	Ouellet	Stewart
(Saint-Henri)	Parent	(Cochrane)
Lumley	Pelletier	Tessier
(Hochelaga)	(Hochelaga)	Turner
Macdonald	Penner	(London East)
(Rosedale)	Philbrook	Turner
MacEachen	Pinard	(Ottawa-Carleton)
MacFarlane	Portelance	Yanakis
MacGuigan	Poulin	Young—100.
Mackasey		

NAYS

Messrs.		
Alexander	Kemping	Nowlan
Alkenbrack	Knowles	Orlikow
Andre	(Winnipeg)	O'Sullivan
(Calgary Centre)	North Centre)	Paproski
Baker	Knowles	Patterson
(Grenville-Carleton)	(Norfolk-Haldimand)	Peters
Baldwin	Korchinski	Ritchie
Beatty	Lambert	Rodriguez
Beaudoin	(Edmonton West)	Rondeau
Benjamin	Lawrence	Saltsman
Broadbent	MacDonald	Schellenberger
Clarke	(Egmont)	Schumacher
(Vancouver Quadra)	MacDonald (Miss)	Smith
Coates	(Kingston and the	(Churchill)
Crouse	Islands)	Stanfield
Darling	MacKay	Stevens
Dick	MacLean	Stewart
Dinsdale	Marshall	(Marquette)
Epp	Matte	Symes
Friesen	Mazankowski	Towers
Gilbert	McCain	Wagner
Graffey	McGrath	Wenman
Halliday	McKenzie	Whiteway
Huntington	McKinley	Whittaker
Hurlburt	McKinnon	Woolliams—65.
Johnston	Muir	

• (2200)

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Penner in the Chair.

Mr. Baldwin: Ten o'clock.

Progress reported.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

CRIMINAL CODE—PROPOSED INCREASE IN PENALTIES FOR EXTORTION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the privilege this evening on the adjournment motion of bringing forward

my representations on a very grave crime that is all too prevalent in our nation today, that of extortion. My representations are made pursuant to the question I put to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) on May 13, as reported at page 5727 of *Hansard*, when I asked the following question:

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. I am sure I voice the concern of all members about the alarming increase in the crime of extortion which is now prevalent in our country . . . As a result of the prevalence of the crime of extortion in this country, preying mainly on the banking and financial professions, will the government and the judiciary immediately review this very serious situation and legislate to increase the penalties for such crimes in order to more severely punish and deter those who would commit them?

The minister replied in part:

. . . I think the question is more one of an enforcement problem and the facilities in that regard. I will be glad to receive any suggestions the hon. member has.

I do have some suggestions to make, Mr. Speaker. I think that short of capital murder, and premeditated murder in all its facets, the most serious problem that besets us today in the line of criminal offences is that of extortion. Rarely do you pick up a daily paper from the metropolitan areas, and from smaller areas also, that you do not read of cases of extortion, most of them carried out successfully by the criminals. They prey mostly on people in the financial sectors of our society and also, from time to time, on those in politics and diplomacy.

I remember many years ago that one of my predecessors in this House of Commons was the target of a local extortion attempt but it was foiled by the law authorities and no physical or financial harm resulted. Today it is all too common to read or hear in the media about a mysterious voice calling a bank manager and saying, "We have your wife and child as prisoners. Put half a million dollars in a certain place. Do not inform the police and no harm will befall your dear ones". In my estimation this is one of the most despicable of all crimes, and as one who in political life has always stood for law and order and the protection of persons and property I intend to see that the punishment for such a crime is severe and swift. That is why I asked on May 13 that the minister and his government and the judiciary immediately review this situation, and that with the increase in the frequency of these offences there also be a pro-rata increase in the penalties for such crimes.

If in the past criminals were getting an average of five years for extortion, now give them ten years with hard labour; and if any deaths result from such premeditated action, try them for capital murder. If the jury does not recommend mercy, let them pay with their lives. The same thing applies to the hostage racket in the prisons.

I bring to your attention an article supporting my opinions in today's *Ottawa Citizen*, written by William Gold, associate editor of the *Calgary Herald*. In an article headed "A little hanging might be a useful exercise", Mr. Gold has this to say:

Contemporary society is producing a singularly savage type of animal, entirely lacking in comprehension of, or respect for, the lives of other people. These psychopaths know perfectly well what they are doing is wrong legally and morally, but the act of murder causes them absolutely no sense of personal revulsion.