Criminal Code

and try to apply statistics to the problem at hand. There is an old saying that there are liars and statistics. But of course I believe all of us realize that statistics do play a very important part in Canadian life. Statistics are the basis of much of the legislation on Canada's statute books; statistics provide information figures on unemployment in this country; statistics are the basis of the insurance industry. There is nothing wrong with statistics—unless there are those who, including myself, would use them without a thorough knowledge—because this is a science. But that does not prevent me or anyone else in this house relying upon the findings of those who are trained in the use of statistics. There are statisticians, social scientists, criminologists, men capable and trained to interpret figures accurately and objectively. Such a man is Professor Sellin, a professor of sociology, President of the International Society of Criminology and a pioneer in the field of criminology and the prevention of crime. Statistics coming from him would be those of a man trained for a very long time in the field of criminology and should carry some weight in a debate such as this, particularly among people who are trying to be objective in forming a conclusion.

Time does not permit a review of all the remarks of this learned professor, but some statistics are very relevant and I think should be read into the record. I do this because a subject of some misgivings in this debate has been the danger or so-called danger to prison guards and policemen from a man convicted of murder and serving time. In this instance the figures relate to American penitentiaries. Professor Sellin in reviewing the incidence of murder in United States penitentiaries in the year 1964 found that in 30 states there were 26 murders. But significantly, of the 26 murders all but two took place in states which have the death penalty, and those two took place in the state of Michigan which is an abolition state.

The policemen in this country have my sympathy but, as the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) mentioned today, there are occupational hazards in all lines of endeavour. In reviewing statistics concerning the danger of policemen being murdered, Professor Sellin considered the statistics made available to him by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the years 1961, 1962 and 1963. The professor found that 140 policemen were killed by suspects or offenders in that

period, or an average of 47 policemen a year. Of these 47 policemen killed, nine were killed in abolition states, two in Michigan, four in Wisconsin, 2 in Minnesota and one in North Dakota. In the nine states bordering these nine abolition states, 21 were killed, four in Massachusetts, four in Indiana, four in Illinois, five in Ohio, one in Iowa and one in Montana; there were two killed in Michigan, an abolition state, but five killed in Ohio and four in Indiana which border Michigan and are retention states.

I should like to refer to statistics a little closer to home. One of the arguments advanced by the Minister of Justice of the province of Quebec is that since it has become the policy of this government, and was that of the previous government, to hand out commutations on a rather generous basis, this has had a tremendous effect on the crime rate, particularly in the case of capital murder, in the province of Quebec. I went to what I thought was the most reliable source of statistics in this regard, namely the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. I had hoped to draw a pattern or draft of the incidence of murder in my province. I found that before 1960 murders were not reported to Ottawa by the province of Quebec, at least not through the provincial police department, although they were gathered haphazardly from different communities.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, much as I would have liked to take in the period 1960 to 1964 and compare it with 1956 to 1960, those figures were not available from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. They are available, of course, from 1961 to 1964. In the year 1961 there were 39 incidents of murder in the province of Quebec; in 1962 there were 42; in 1963 it jumped to 50, giving some credence to the theory that criminals were taking advantage of the policy of commutation. Then in 1964, the last year for which statistics are available, the number of murders decreased from 50 to 45. The number of victims follows a similar pattern. In 1961 there were 42; in 1962, 44; in 1963, 57. But in 1964 it dropped to 46.

Whether we are abolitionists or retentionists, all of us, I am happy to say, realize that relatively few murderers fall into the category of cold, callous killers. Most people in justifying their argument for retention, and I respect this argument, emphasize the role that syndicated crime takes right now. I agree with them to the extent that I would