

Capital Punishment

newspaper on April 30, 1976, went from \$150 million to \$320 million between 1970 and 1975.

Figures from the Quebec Police Commission originate from budgets, that is from estimates and do not include police expenditures other than municipal and provincial ones, such as those of the RCMP.

In total, 13,596 policemen were on duty in 1975 in the province of Quebec, including 4,108 for the Quebec Police Force. This personnel was assisted by 2,619 civilians and 375 part-time policemen and 3,090 motor vehicles of which more than half were not identified.

The Montreal Urban Community, which covers 30 municipalities, takes the lion's share with \$136 million followed by the Quebec Police Force with \$104 million.

If we add to those already huge amounts the expenditures anticipated for supervision during the Olympic Games, we find ourselves in the ridiculous situation where in some areas of the country one half of Canadians will watch the other half at a cost of millions of dollars when our politicians of every stripe urge each citizen to save during an inflation period which they have contributed to create. During that disturbed period, we must just the same assume our responsibilities and honestly try to enforce a rehabilitative justice.

It might be possible, with the modern means of transportation and supervision at our disposal through the armed forces, to have inmates achieve profitable works in northern areas or to develop camps on islands from where it is almost impossible to escape. We might use the services of inmates in human working conditions while ensuring the advantages required in their situation to those who have an aptitude for rehabilitation; this would not only contribute to relieve overcrowded penitentiaries, but it would provide a large number with a useful occupation rather than leaving them idle with experienced mates preparing new plans. We are far from having experimented all means of rehabilitation and yet, we know that nothing must be neglected in this regard.

When one considers the behaviours of a percentage of inmates, in particular the young ones, one often finds that a large number of them have endured living conditions which contributed to develop in them a hostile attitude towards society, have been neglected by too many parents who failed to assume their social responsibilities, and often went through endless unemployment periods with all the painful experiences associated with it: inadequate incomes, hardships and despair.

Our administrators must now accept to pay after the crime what they too often refused to pay before and which, in many cases, would have avoided these periods of forced idleness and hardships of all kinds that are the results of a corrupt and corrupting financial system. We must now pay the high cost of rehabilitating criminals; it is urgent to bring about social changes in many areas to make life more human for many people.

Inflation, taxes and debts are not remedies to the great illness from which society is suffering. Those who are in charge of this society will have to get used to seeing wealth in things—real wealth, real value—rather than in sings. This is the root of the problem, the real illness of the century, which has terrible effects that might be called the

[Mr. Dionne (Kamouraska).]

fear of tomorrow, which often makes your hair turn white at an early age and which probably contributes to send a large number of citizens to their graves before their time. Let us consider for some time the devastating effects this famous system has had on our planet. Many people are ready to tread on their conscience to earn their living. How many businessmen have cheated their competitors just because if they had not they would have gone under? How many professionals have sought to live in comfort and according to their rank at the expense of their science and their art? How many public men have sold out their country to gain economic security for themselves? The word "money" comes more often to our mind than the verb "love" to our heart. This is how our money system is holding man in slavery. The human being worships the golden calf. Money is at the centre of his concerns. This means that the money system has departed from its primary object. Money must continue to perform its mission, and be a tool of exchange instead of domination.

Our system is vitiated and condemned by the greatest doctrinal authority in the world. Here is what one can read in the *Quadragesimo Anno* encyclical:

Those who control money and credit have so firmly economic life in their grasp that no one can breathe against their will.

And in the same text one also finds:

The economical and social structure will be soundly constituted and achieve its end only when it will provide all its members with all the goods that the resources of nature and industry as well as a truly social organization of economic life are in a position to secure for them. Such goods must be sufficiently abundant to satisfy the needs for a decent living.

The decision-makers at the top of society should draw their inspiration more often from encyclicals and direct the economic organization so as to allow the people to live decently, particularly in a country endowed with an abundance of natural resources and inhabited by well-meaning people.

I have every reason to believe that through such means, as I said earlier, the number of crimes would be reduced.

● (1610)

[English]

Mr. Gilbert Parent (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues have quoted facts and figures to prove either that capital punishment is a deterrent to murder or, conversely, that it is not a deterrent to murder. I suggest that statistics can be interpreted to virtually any advantage. I wish to address myself to another facet of the argument; that is, that our laws with regard to capital punishment as interpreted and administered seemingly are inadequate to deal with our current social problems, and our prisons are not equipped to truly rehabilitate condemned murderers.

Society must believe that it is being protected. I am sorry to say that today this credibility does not exist. Perhaps it is the fault of the media, which day in and day out bombards us with atrocities which men visit upon one another. Perhaps it is because for years we have been conditioned to accepting violence as a legitimate response to wrongdoing. Whatever the cause, the public feels vulnerable and under attack.