

*Criminal Code*

whether it is a deterrent. Nor am I going to enter into the argument on religious grounds because I do not feel qualified to do so. I suggest to those who have been quoting biblical authorities for the taking of human life by capital punishment, that there is more than one portion of the Bible. Perhaps closer attention to the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth rather than to some of the more blood thirsty prophets of the Old Testament might produce religious arguments more in keeping with the spirit of today.

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that this amendment will carry and that the resolution as amended will carry. I say that all those who feel that capital punishment is a blot on our present civilization, and all those who fear its abolition, will have at least part of their point of view represented for five years, to see which has the right of it in this serious moral question of taking human life.

May I call it ten o'clock.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Before ten o'clock is called, may I ask that we continue the sitting to debate this issue? I suggest that we sit for another hour and a half and I also suggest that there be an understanding that there will be no vote taken tonight. We would provide for hon. members to make speeches for another hour and a half if that is agreeable.

**Mr. Starr:** First, of all, may I say this is agreeable to us. I should like to ask for clarification of one point. We now have an amendment before us, and there is the likelihood another amendment will be introduced. Will all these amendments be voted upon at 5.45 tomorrow, or is there a possibility of voting prior to that time?

**Mr. McIlraith:** The order of the house is so drafted that there is a possibility of a vote on any amendment being taken at any time during the debate. The order provides that tomorrow at 5.45 the proceedings shall be interrupted and any amendments then before the house must be voted upon at that point. This order is to permit further amendments; but an amendment could be voted upon at any time before that.

My suggestion is that we agree that there will be no vote taken tonight in view of the hour, but that hon. members be permitted to speak for another hour and a half.

**Mr. Knowles:** There is just one problem with regard to sitting late, and I think we can resolve it. I refer to the debate on the [Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

adjournment motion. I remind the house leader that we deferred these questions from last Tuesday night, so there is a backlog of them. I wonder if we could agree to having the adjournment debate right now, so we do not keep the ministers and others here too late. Then we could return to this capital punishment debate until 11.30.

• (10:00 p.m.)

**Mr. McIlraith:** No; since there is a limited time for this debate on the abolition of capital punishment, I should like to feel that all hon. members who wish will have an opportunity to speak. Surely we could make some other arrangement regarding proceedings on the adjournment motion.

**Mr. Knowles:** What does the minister suggest?

**Mr. McIlraith:** That we have the questions retain their order of precedence and that we take them tomorrow night on the adjournment motion.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret):** Is it agreed that this house will sit until 11.30 p.m., on the understanding that there will be no division tonight?

**Mr. Scott (Danforth):** Mr. Speaker, I want it to be clear that included in the order is the understanding that the questions which were to be taken tonight on adjournment will retain their present status and be taken tomorrow night.

**Mr. McIlraith:** They will retain their present order of precedence and will be taken tomorrow night after ten o'clock.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret):** Does the house agree with the observations made by the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Scott), in addition to what I said previously, that we sit until 11.30 p.m. and that no division will take place tonight?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret):** The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I was just standing up to say that I have finished my argument, and I would like somebody else to carry on now.

**Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, our attention has been focused on the subject of capital punishment for some months now in view of the promise of this debate. It has