

Capital Punishment

Something else which I found very interesting in this survey was that 1,600 of the 3,621 prisoners were alcoholics or had a drinking problem. That is a little over 45 per cent. Forty-one of the 3,621 prisoners were convicted of murder and 20 of them had an alcohol problem or, at least, alcohol was involved. Alcoholism and violence seem to go hand in hand. Beside being a factor in almost half the murders, alcohol played a part in 31 of the 47 manslaughters, 46 of the 77 rapes and 31 of the 51 assaults. These two factors, unemployment and alcohol, have not only contributed in a major way to crime in the past but, I believe, continue to do so today. In my opinion, this correlation will continue unless steps are taken to alter the situation.

Capital punishment does not by one iota alleviate the adverse conditions under which too many of our people live. What has the government done to alleviate the conditions which spawn crime? In 1971, the Senate Committee on Poverty concluded there were five million people living in poverty in this country. The committee made ten major recommendations but not one of those recommendations has been acted upon. The government has produced nothing better than band-aid solutions stuck on with glib platitudes and affecting only a very small percentage of the population. As long as large numbers of our people continue to live in poverty and deprivation amidst the great wealth of this country, alienation will thrive and crimes of violence, including murder, will be committed. For too long, those responsible for directing the economic destiny of this country have placed great emphasis on the standard of living. I think we ought to concentrate, now, on quality of living.

I mentioned alcoholism as being a contributing factor to crime. We know it is the most serious drug problem facing Canada today. How effectively involved has the government been in spearheading a program aimed at educating the youth of our society with respect to alcoholism? I tried last Monday to ascertain from the Department of National Health and Welfare how much money had been spent by the government in the past year on combating alcoholism. I was told none had been spent because there was no program. The federal government will spend, in 1972-73, \$7,548,000 under the heading "non-medical use of drugs". None of this sum is earmarked for use in the particular area to which I have brought attention.

The time has come to exercise control over the advertising of alcohol on radio and television. In my own constituency, "Hockey Night in Canada" is probably the most popular program for the young people on Saturday evenings. Yet this program is sponsored by beer companies whose advertising is psychologically directed at the young people. The time has come to take a look at this kind of advertising and the effect it may have on "hooking" the citizens of this country on the most dangerous drug we have today.

• (1600)

On Friday last the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) stated, "There is a genuine fear of death in the mind of every rational person". The operative word in that statement is, of course, "rational". But the murderer is hardly ever a rational person. Between 1966 and 1969 alone, 36 murderers were found to be insane. Moreover, an interest-

[Mr. Rodriguez.]

ing facet is the relationship between the murderer and the victim. In the 1964-65 period, 47.8 per cent of the total number of murders committed involved members of the same family.

In too many parts of the country there are no family counselling clinics; the family is left to cope with the pressures of an accelerated life style for which they are not mentally or emotionally equipped. The role of the federal government ought to be reviewed, with greater emphasis on community clinics co-ordinated and financed by all levels of government.

Funds for mental health clinics have never been as freely available as funds for improving physical health in this country. The state will spend, in 1972-73, on fitness and amateur sports \$8.5 million, yet only \$354,404 on mental health. There are far too many areas of this country where mental health clinics are unknown and where school and municipal authorities have no access to qualified help, assistance or educational information in dealing with the emotionally disturbed or the mentally disabled. Often it is done on an ad hoc basis and by well intentioned but untrained or unskilled volunteers. It is fairly obvious that the federal government has abrogated its leadership responsibilities in this field. I hope that at the upcoming conference between the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) and his provincial counterparts the topic of mental health will occupy a position of some prominence on the agenda.

The annual cost of caring for all prisoners in federal penitentiaries is \$51,900,000. Every penny intelligently spent on preventing the individual from becoming a prison inmate not only reduces penitentiary costs to the taxpayer but also does more to ensure the ultimate protection of society than does the rope.

Bill C-2 proposes capital punishment for those guilty of killing a policeman or prison guard while on duty. The Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand) says he is an abolitionist. He provides an array of statistical information which indicates that capital punishment is not a deterrent to murder. My colleague from New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt) last Friday presented a statistic which indicated that miners had a higher fatality rate—11 per 10,000—than police officers with a rate of 3.1 per 10,000. Coming from a mining district, I suspect that the 11 probably does not include those who die as a result of silicosis contracted after 30 to 40 years in the mines of Inco and Falconbridge.

No one would suggest capital punishment for the boards of directors of Inco and Falconbridge. Indeed, I think a more effective deterrent than the rope for these directors would be nationalization of their companies. The Solicitor General blithely ignores this statistic, which indicates not only inconsistency but also lack of political courage. The state must organize its resources, both human and material, in solving these human problems. Unless the government starts moving in this direction now, we run the dangerous possibility of reducing the human condition to nothing but a society of Clockwork Oranges.

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I must confess that I do not find this a particularly easy speech to make. I have