

Mr. Speaker, I have here other evidence. I have referred to Sept-Îles, but let us now turn to my own constituency, Témiscamingue, where I asked the question: Are you or are you not in favour of the death penalty? That is clear enough. The response was: 390 in favour, 92 against. There you have the opinion of people at the other end of Quebec province. Let us ask questions in other areas, in the English provinces.

Mr. La Salle: Don't forget my constituency.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Which constituency?

Mr. La Salle (Joliette): Joliette.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): It is my friend from the constituency of Joliette, I think.

Mr. Speaker, we see the same everywhere. I have in my hand a letter from a priest in Lévis who wrote to ask me to urge the government to re-establish capital punishment, not out of revenge, but for justice's sake.

When we consider what happened in Quebec in 1970 and when we see now the results and the consequences, we cannot but be puzzled. Here are individuals directly involved with the foul murder of a public man. One is released after two years and a half or three years.

An hon. Member: Just for fun.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Sure, it is just for fun that those three guys hid under a house, in a hole for rats. You will not make me believe that they hid in such a place just for the fun of it. It is because they had done something wrong which compelled them to go into hiding. People keep forgetting that and, in Quebec, they may come up with some legal gimmick which will make us believe that Pierre Laporte is still alive, that he has not been murdered.

Mr. Speaker, when faced with such a parody of justice, I am not the least surprised that Canadians have lost all confidence in the judiciary and the administration.

A few years ago, there was this gangster disguised as Santa Claus, in Ville Laval or Duvernay, I think it was—

An hon. Member: In Ville Saint-Laurent.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):—yes, in Ville Saint-Laurent. He was disguised as Santa Claus as though to distribute gifts to small children at the shopping centre. He was there to take part in a hold-up. Not satisfied with having shot two policemen down, he put five slugs in their heads. I wonder if the killer is still in jail; perhaps he is out on parole; perhaps he is at large. There have been all sorts of escapes. An inmate escaped while supposedly watering the skating rink in Bordeaux, another escaped from Cowansville, another from Saint-Vincent-de-Paul—

An hon. Member: During a hockey game at the Forum—

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):—during a hockey game at the Forum, and without a hose either.

Capital Punishment

Mr. Speaker, some odious crimes have been committed in the Shawinigan area. Two young girls, 15 or 16 years old, were picked up by two young bums, taken into the woods, raped and killed in cold blood. In the name of humanity, let us save those bums! One of them committed suicide in Saint-Vincent-de-Paul—

Mr. La Salle: He was quicker than the administration!

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Yes, quicker, the hon. member for Joliette is right. As another hon. member was saying the other day, it is easier to get out of jail than to get in.

Gangsters and bums are no sooner behind bars than they quickly get bailed out and find themselves free to roam the streets after two hours. That is how society is protected. Let us stop fooling the people. We are not against humanity, but in favour of it. But any man who has, not the courage but the nerve to go and kill his neighbour ought to realize, in the name of the most elementary justice, that he is putting his own life at stake. If he makes an attempt against his neighbour's life, all right; his own will be attacked. That is it. That is justice; not vengeance, but justice. No revenge would be exercised if this man acted like a human being. Why does he not do so? There are homicides, of course, involuntary homicides or manslaughter. But as regards sordid crime, we are for the restoration of capital punishment in order to punish it.

I have here another letter from Chandler. That community is not in my riding, but it is in favour of capital punishment. According to Mr. Armand Langlois, from Chandler in the riding of Gaspé South, we should act as quickly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of evidence. I have here a letter from Malton, Ontario, addressed to the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand).

● (1540)

[English]

It is addressed the Hon. Warren Allmand, Solicitor General for Canada, Ottawa, Ontario and reads, in part:

I urge, therefore, that you consider very carefully before you decide how to deal with this matter in any decisive way.

My hope is you are inclined to listen to those we have in positions of authority, such as the chiefs of police, and the attorneys-general of the provinces, and guide yourself, according to their ideas.

[Translation]

For the reinstatement of capital punishment, let us again take the evidence of police chiefs at their convention. What did they advocate? The reinstatement of capital punishment because under the present act, if a criminal kills a policeman he should be sentenced to death. This act was never implemented those past five years. Policemen were murdered in cold blood. The murderers were convicted to life imprisonment. Capital punishment was not deemed fit for those people!

Mr. Speaker, while my opinion is that we should protect policemen and their families, I also think that the life of my children, my wife and wives of hon. members is as important as that of a prison guard or a policeman. They are human beings and gangsters do not have more right to