

made with respect to applications for assistance and the granting of benefits.

My point is, Mr. Speaker, that our Government has recently set aside a budget of \$4 billion for the Canada Assistance Plan Program, of which \$1.2 billion is directly paid out in the form of direct or indirect assistance to the disabled. I therefore welcome this opportunity to help explain the principle that has led our Government both in the recent White Paper and its usual programs, which is that of giving more to those who need it. There are two ways to do this: first, by not giving to those who do not need it and second, possibly by getting the money from people with a larger disposable income as the recent White Paper suggested and reducing the tax burden on those who are not in need, so as to provide a better service through our Canada Assistance Plan.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a progressive measure, and one that all Canadians will be prepared to accept once they look at the White Paper. It is understood that the disabled, those who are in need, and all those people about whom we and the Minister of Finance are concerned, whatever the Hon. Member opposite, who just a minute ago was trying to establish a contradiction between the mover of the motion and our valiant Minister of Finance it is understood, Mr. Speaker, that our Government is going to produce a White Paper that will ensure that the disabled and the needy in this country receive their rightful share.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The hour provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 42(1), the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REINSTATEMENT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski:

That this House supports, in principle, the reinstatement of capital punishment and directs that a special committee on reinstatement, composed of 15 members, be established, hold hearings and make its final report to the House no later than three (3) months following the adoption of this motion, such report to provide recommendations on:

- (a) which offence or offences should carry the death penalty, and in what circumstances;
- (b) which method or methods should be used to carry out the penalty of death, and in what circumstances;

That, pursuant to Standing Order 107(1), this special committee be hereby appointed as a committee to prepare and bring in a bill no later than three months following the adoption of this motion, founded on the committee's recommendations on (a) and (b) above; such a bill shall be the object of a separate and distinct report of the special committee, and such a report shall be its final report;

### Capital Punishment

That such bill, when reported from such special committee to the House, be deemed pursuant to Standing Order 107(1) to have been introduced and stand on the Order Paper, in the name of the special committee chairman, for first reading at the next sitting of the House; and that subsequent House stages of the bill be considered under "Government Orders", with the bill standing under the heading "Government Business"; and that, when the said bill has been read a second time, it shall stand referred to a Legislative Committee;

That the Striking Committee be empowered to name the Members of the special committee, provided that once the Striking Committee report is laid upon the Table, it shall be deemed concurred in;

That the special committee have the power to sit while the House is sitting and during periods when the House stands adjourned;

That the special committee be empowered to report from time to time and send for persons and papers, and to print such papers and evidence from time to time as may be ordered by the committee and to retain the services of expert, technical, professional and clerical staff;

That the special committee be empowered to adjourn from place to place inside Canada and that, when deemed necessary, the appropriate staff accompany the committee;

That a quorum of the special committee be eight (8) members for any vote, resolution or other decision; and that the chairman be authorized to hold meetings to receive evidence and authorize the printing thereof whenever six (6) members are present;

That any substitution of membership on the special committee be made pursuant to Standing Order 94(4); and

That, notwithstanding the usual practices of this House, if the House is not sitting when the special committee is ready to issue its final report and the said bill, the special committee shall present its report and the bill to the House by filing them with the Clerk of the House provided that the report shall then be deemed to have been laid upon the Table, and the bill shall then be deemed, pursuant to Standing Order 107(1), to have been introduced at the first sitting of the House thereafter and to stand on the Order Paper in the name of the special committee chairman, for first reading at the next sitting of the House; and that subsequent House stages of the bill be considered under "Government Orders", with the bill standing under the heading "Government Business".

And on the amendment of Mr. Nystrom (p. 7307).

● (1900)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the motion on the reinstatement of capital punishment. I want to say to the House, without reservation and without qualification, that I do not support the motion to reinstate.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** I will be voting against capital punishment on moral and logical grounds. I believe that it is wrong. This is a subject on which Canadians hold strong views and speak from very deep conviction. It is an issue on which a periodic review of public policy should be undertaken in the public interest.

That was the commitment that I made in the last election campaign, namely, that a free vote would be held on capital punishment during the course of our present mandate. That is the intent of this motion, to permit debate and a free vote on the question of capital punishment.

For obvious reasons, none more important than the participation of everyone in this House today, this is a debate that should be conducted on the highest level and with genuine