

*Criminal Code*

Chicago University I remember that every newspaper in the United States had a heading, "Where Is Crawley?" Crawley was a young gunman who was being hunted across the United States for a series of murders.

A very great columnist in the United States wrote a column which he headed, "Why Is Crawley?" He said that the people of the United States, instead of asking "Where Is Crawley", ought to take a little time out to ask "Why Is Crawley?" The columnist went over his history. He came from a broken home which the father had deserted and where the mother was out working all day. The boy lived on the streets. He was part of a gang of hoodlums. He was sent to reformatory and then was back on the streets. He was without proper education and without any counseling. He was sent to jail and associated with hardened criminals. He came out of jail twice as tough as when he went in. By 19 he was a hardened criminal. By the time he was 21 he was a killer. He was finally shot down by the police who were trying to capture him.

I suppose one of the most lamentable murders in our time has been the killing of President John F. Kennedy. Yet, when one reads the story of the man who is believed to have been responsible for his death, we find that when Lee Oswald was a boy in school he was recommended to undergo psychiatric treatment because of the dangerous psychotic tendencies he then displayed. But there were not enough psychiatrists to look after all the children in that particular part of New York city and this boy was not treated. This boy grew up with his psychotic tendencies expanding, and he is believed to have been responsible for extinguishing one of the brightest lights of our generation.

If we really want to tackle the problem of eliminating crime, we must tackle the problem of the slums which breed crime and we must tackle the problem of the lack of psychiatric clinics to take care of psychotics and persons who may become criminally dangerous. We need the kind of penal reform that will make possible the rehabilitation of first offenders with proper probation and parole. We need to go to the roots of the cause of crime and to ask ourselves what it is that produces the murderer in society.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I must advise the hon. member that the time allotted to him has expired.

**Some hon. Members:** Continue.

[Mr. Douglas.]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Does the hon. member have unanimous consent to continue?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Douglas:** I shall only take a few minutes, Mr. Speaker. I thank the house.

My final point is that I am opposed to capital punishment because I believe that the measure of a nation is the manner in which it treats its misfits and its offenders. Capital punishment has already been abolished in most of the advanced nations of the western world. The abolition of capital punishment has come to be taken as the hallmark of a nation's conscience. I want to see Canada take this great forward step, and I want to make a special appeal to the members of the house to consider how important for Canada and for its future will be the vote we shall take tonight.

I understand that 14 men are now under sentence of death.

**An hon. Member:** How many have they killed?

**Mr. Douglas:** This places the government in a very difficult dilemma.

**An hon. Member:** You mean the cabinet.

**Mr. Douglas:** The government is the cabinet. They are virtually one and the same thing.

I should not want to be in the shoes of the Prime Minister and the members of his cabinet who have to face up to this very difficult problem. Nobody has been hanged in Canada since 1962. If the motion tonight is defeated the government is going to be in an awkward position. Either it will have to commute those sentenced to death to life imprisonment, knowing that the House of Commons has just rejected a motion suggesting the abolition of the death penalty, or it will have to take the defeat of the motion as an expression of opinion and allow the death sentences to be carried out.

I urge the members of the house to consider the predicament which faces the Prime Minister and the cabinet. I want to urge the house to give a five-year trial to the abolition of the death penalty. If the fears that have been expressed prove to be warranted, if there is an upsurge in the rate of homicide, if we are faced with an increase in crime rate, then in five years the members of the House of Commons who are here then can allow the