

Criminal Code

that the hon. member is correctly reported. In dealing with this matter he referred to the situation in Great Britain.

Not long ago I wrote to the British press and asked them if they had any recent articles on the situation in regard to crime and particularly in regard to murder. I received a reply from the *Daily Express* of London. They sent me a copy of an article that appeared in their December 30, 1965 edition. I do not intend to read it all but I should like to say that this article indicates that the hon. member is not correct. In part the article reads as follows:

Crime figures for 1965 will shock those who supported the abolition of capital punishment in Britain. Murders have soared over the 200 mark, according to Home Office returns now nearing completion. A *Daily Express* count puts the figure as high as 235—53 more than last year.

That is the highest total ever recorded in Britain. Last year there were 182 murders; in 1963 there were 159.

Later the article states:

More and more M.P.'s are becoming convinced that the removal of the fear of hanging has led to a free and easy attitude toward killing among the professional criminal classes.

It is my understanding that hon. members will make some reference to the House of Lords during this debate.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. McIntosh: I should like to put this quotation on the record. My time is limited and I have quite a bit to say on this subject so I will ask the hon. member to defer his questions until I have finished, at which time I will be glad to answer them. I wish to say something on another subject about which I am sure you will have some questions.

Lord Dilhorne had this to say, and I will only read a portion of it:

You cannot abolish the death sentence without running serious risks and innocent lives being lost. I have always been in favour of abolishing hanging if it could be done without risking lives. These figures confirm that this is not possible.

Lord Kilmuir the former Lord Chancellor and Home Secretary, is reported as having said:

I have always believed that fear of a death sentence is a deterrent. I think we took an enormous risk by abolishing hanging.

I said that the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona was a qualified retentionist. I make the same statement about the hon. member for Kootenay East (Mr. Byrne), particularly if the quotation of his remarks

appearing in the newspaper is correct. He is reported in the *Globe and Mail* of March 24 as follows:

The Liberal M.P. declared himself unalterably opposed to the taking of life of any living creature unless done in self-defence or because of need.

That qualification means that he is a qualified retentionist.

The hon. member is reported as having made another statement with which I agree. He is reported in the same article as follows:

The Liberal abolitionist said that execution of murderers by the state only indicates the failure of society to determine the causes of murder.

I think we must admit that, and until we can determine the cause or the reason for the compulsion, if you wish to call it that, to murder we must retain capital punishment. I think that is the issue in this debate. If we could determine the cause or what lies behind the compulsion of certain people to commit murder, then perhaps we would not have to discuss this matter at all.

I have been very impressed by the number of letters I have received about this subject from individuals and church groups. I have been impressed with them all except one which I received this morning in the form of a brief from the Communist party of Canada. I shall not read from it but I want to say that the Communist party is opposed to capital punishment. That party is opposed also to our way of life and to the divine law. I have a good idea of what would happen to a person committing the crime of treason in any country with a Communist government. I am certain they would not be sentenced to life imprisonment.

The first decision I had to make on this issue was whether capital punishment was contrary to the divine law because, as I say, I have received a great many letters and briefs from church groups. I have been concerned mainly with the opinions expressed by young people belonging to these church groups. They have been told by their pastors, ministers and priests that capital punishment is contrary to the teachings of either the divine law, Jesus Christ or God. I had to decide whether that was a false premise and I feel that such a decision on my part is necessary in view of the many letters and briefs I have received.

The conclusion I have reached is that the divine authority has laid down two sets of laws, one for the individual and one for the state. That is why I said earlier that I