

Capital Punishment

Messrs.

Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo)	Parent	Scott
Marshall	Pearsall	Sharp
Masniuk	Pelletier	Smith
McCain	Penner	(Saint-Jean)
McGrath	Philbrook	Stanfield
McIsaac	Pinard	Stevens
McKinley	Portelance	Stewart
McKinnon	Poulin	(Marquette)
McRac	Prud'homme	Stewart
Milne	Railton	(Cochrane)
Munro	Raines	Tessier
(Esquimalt-Saanich)	Reid	Towers
Munro	Ritchie	Trudel
(Hamilton East)	Roberts	Turner
Murta	Roche	Watson
Neil	Rooney	Whelan
Nicholson (Miss)	Roy	Whiteway
Nowlan	(Timmins)	Woolliams
O'Connell	Roy	Yanakis
Olivier	(Laval)	Yewchuk
Paproski	Rynard	Young—176
	Sauvé (Mrs.)	

Mr. Speaker: I declare the amendment to motion No. 4 lost. The question, therefore, is on motion No. 4 in the name of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion No. 4 agreed to.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved that Bill B-68, to amend the Medical Care Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, be concurred in.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On division.

Motion agreed to.

* * *

CRIMINAL CODE**MEASURES RESPECTING PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER AND OTHER SERIOUS OFFENCES**

The House resumed, from Wednesday, May 5, consideration of the motion of Mr. Allmand that Bill C-84, to amend the Criminal Code in relation to the punishment for murder and certain other serious offences, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Mr. Leonard C. Jones (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to continue where I left off in this debate yesterday when I was referring to certain numerical facts. During the period between 1957 and 1970, when capital punishment was supposedly still the law of this land, the number of murders increased from 129 to 420. The abolitionists argued that this really was no increase in the murder rate because, of course, this allowed for the greater population in the

[Mr. Speaker.]

country—but it still leads to the conclusion that the murder rate has more than doubled. May I remind the disciples of abolition, however, that during this 13-year span only once was the written law on capital punishment enforced. How can one test the merit of any law by this type of standard? I only wish the government were half as lackadaisical with the enforcement of laws pertaining to taxes as with the enforcement of laws pertaining to capital punishment.

● (1600)

Again, may I address the assembly of abolitionists—who, incidentally, represent only 13 per cent of the population, according to the latest poll—who feel that the only meagre argument for capital punishment is vengeance. Vengeance argues no part in my argument. Protection of the lives of the innocent is the main reason supporting the law on capital punishment. Some believe that the death penalty is un-Christian, unethical or barbaric. I consider myself to be a Christian, but I have no qualms whatsoever in seeing a once, twice or thrice-convicted murderer suffer for his misdoings.

In committing premeditated murder, the individual has brought upon himself, by his own conduct, this supreme penalty. He is then the author of his own misfortune. Persons who murder or commit any other type of capital offence do not choose to be children of God but, rather, children of wrath, and therefore are not brothers in Christ, if we want to divide people in religious terms. If we are Christians, they are not our brothers but children of wrath.

In view of the fact that the case involving the death of the two Moncton policemen on Friday, December 13, 1974, is still being considered by the Supreme Court of Canada, I will refrain from any further reference to that black day. Neither will I make reference to the cost to the province of New Brunswick, or of the cost to other provinces in such cases.

Our judicial system may not be perfect, but it is the best that has yet been employed and devised by man. There is a preliminary hearing, a trial with a judge and a jury of 12 free men, an appeal to the appeal court of the province, and a further appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Let us examine the experience of our neighbouring country with regard to the retention of capital punishment for premeditated murder. A ruling by the United States Supreme Court in 1972 voided capital punishment laws. However, by the end of 1973 the death penalty for murder was reinstated by a large majority of the states of the United States of America. The increase in violence in the country resulted in louder and more persistent demands as the only means whereby society could be adequately protected. People ask for justice, not revenge. Justice which sentences a murderer to a 25-year term in an institution, with excellent fare, provision for the entertainment of his guests, medical services and a friendly and assiduous array of psychologists and psychiatrists, constitutes no formidable dissuasion to most wrongdoers—certainly not to hardened and experienced post-graduates in wickedness.

Abolitionists proclaim as an imperative that no crime, however dastardly, is deserving of the supreme penalty. According to the new ethic of these people who would obliterate the death penalty in every conceivable instance,