

a lot of research and collect enough information to be able to come to the kind of conclusion all of us would like to reach. I am sure it would be of interest to members of parliament and the public at large if I relate the hard criminal statistics in Canada to those of the United States and other countries of the world to see how we fare in that relationship. Unfortunately the bases of our statistics in this and in other countries are not really comparable and do not lend themselves to ready or accurate comparison.

In addition to this, the fundamental definition of murder or capital homicide has varied in this country over the years and, indeed, in all other countries with which we would like to make comparisons. Nonetheless, and in spite of this reservation regarding the shortcomings of statistical data available, I think there is some justification in looking at the facts that are available.

First of all let us look at the volume of reported crime in Canada during the years 1962 to 1970. In 1962 there were 796,675 offences reported to the police, and 34,954 were violent offences. Violent offences in that year constituted 4.4 per cent of actual offences reported.

There has been a gradual increase in the number of offences during that period which is not particularly dramatic, culminating in 1970 with 1,574,135 offences reported to the police, of which 92,372 were violent offences. The percentage of violent offences rose from 4.4 per cent to 5.9 per cent.

Violent offences in all categories related to the population figures in Canada indicate that in 1962 the rate per 100,000 population was 226.6. In 1970 this figure has grown to 494.4. In other words, they more than doubled, clearly indicating an increase in violence in society. However, the operative point is, what kind of violence and how do we as legislators best deal with the growing trend? That is the central question.

Criminal homicide in 1962 constituted three quarters of one per cent of all violent crime in Canada. In 1970 criminal homicide constituted less than one half of one per cent. This alone illustrates that although there was an increase in criminal homicides during those nine years in absolute figures, from 265 in 1962 to 425 in 1970, criminal homicide as a percentage of violent crime had indeed shrunk and not grown.

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Let us turn our attention now to another aspect of violent crime. The average rates over the nine-year period in the five categories of violent crime are as follows: criminal homicide .52 per cent, attempted murder .24 per cent, wounding and assault 86.18 per cent, rape 1.28 per cent, and robbery 11.78 per cent. These statistics illustrate a fundamental point relating to capital punishment. Capital punishment is directed toward criminal homicide only, and this is the area where there is the least growth in violence. Its retention in my view does not have any effect on the larger categories of violent offences such as wounding, assault, rape, and robbery, which constitute over 99 per cent of all violent offences in our society.

If the public wants more peace and security then clearly we as legislators must deal not only with the question of capital punishment and how to deal with murderers but the larger and ever increasing problem of other forms of

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violent criminal activity where capital punishment has no place in the minds of any of us in our society. Simply, in terms of protecting human life we must look at the problem of loss of life in society in proper perspective.

In 1970 there were 425 criminal homicides. It is generally accepted that only about 30 per cent of these were premeditated homicides. In the same year the death rate for motor vehicle accidents was 5,312, and for boating and water accidents 1,205. I do not have the statistics for the thousands who died in our society each year through all other kinds of accidental mishaps. Clearly these facts alone indicate that the danger to our population through non-criminal accidental death is much more severe than that which faces our citizens through criminal activity and homicide. More recent statistics indicate that in 1973 there were 475 murders, 2,773 suicides, 6,429 motor vehicle fatalities, and 13,476 other fatalities. In other words, 97.8 per cent of violent or accidental deaths are from sources other than murder.

The incidence of crime statistics is very closely related to drug and alcohol abuse. It is estimated that in British Columbia which has the highest per capita crime rate in Canada, approximately 70 per cent of all crime committed in that province is related to drug and alcohol abuse. If we want to solve crime in society we must get down to the nuts and bolts of the question, deal with its root causes and forget about capital punishment as a final solution to our ills.

It is estimated that as high as 90 per cent of victims of criminal homicide knew their killer. This illustrates an important point that criminal homicide is largely committed between friends, families, neighbours, lovers and so on, and not by the so-called criminal element of society. One has the vague impression that the public have an unwholesome fear of being murdered by some unknown criminal in society. The facts do not bear out this kind of concern.

A point which flows from the above statistics is that those who commit murder in the domestic or neighbourhood context are generally, up until that moment, normal law-abiding citizens and commit the crime either through passion, temporary mental derangement, or a unique and specific motive arising from the special relationship between the two parties involved. Such persons, I am informed, are rarely even remotely inclined to commit the same kind of offence again. Indeed they must be punished, but in my view one who says that this group must be hanged to provide protection for society is not facing the realities of the situation. I know of no evidence that a person in this group has ever committed an offence of that calibre for the second time in this country.

These statistics, like all statistics, are very confusing but they do indicate clearly that there is an increase in violence in society, but in proportional terms, not for premeditated murder. Therefore capital punishment, although it may be desirable to some, will certainly not be a solution to the problem of violence in society.

Now let us for a moment take a look at the bare facts in relation to a new look at what the government's response has been to the perceived problem of the public in our society. Let us look briefly at the new peace and security