

and the sacredness of life. May I deal with the latter, the sacredness of life. We all accept that; but does not the sacredness of life, the sanctity of life, apply to the state as well as to the individual? Surely because a small minority of the population does not accept the principle of the sacredness and sanctity of human life, that should not be used as a reasoned argument that the state must not maintain the sacredness of human life. Two wrongs do not make a right.

I have never hidden the fact that I stand for the abolition of capital punishment. Because of that, over the years I have received a great many letters from those who support the retention of capital punishment. I would say, at a rough guess, that 80 per cent of those who write to me expressing opinions in favour of the retention of capital punishment bring in what they term God's will or the written word. Because I receive so many letters of that nature I should like to say that we would indeed live in a savage and barbaric Canada if we stood steadfast on the written word.

If one should study, as I have, the written word as it appears in the Old Testament, in Exodus, he would find that the following are capital crimes: Murder, striking or cursing one's parents, slave procurement, fatal attack by an ox, witchcraft, sodomy, and sacrifice to any god other than Yahweh. To these Leviticus adds adultery. Deuteronomy holds responsible both parties involved in criminal assault in the city, a rebellious son, and an unchaste bride. This is capital punishment in the written word. If you study the written word where the method of execution is specified, you will find that it is stoning to death.

In this civilization modern man has advanced. Is there any reasonable argument as to why we should not advance still further? We would not think of these things as capital murder today. We would not think of the penalty of stoning to death, although it is set forth in the written word. No; we have advanced toward the meaning of the written word: "Thou shalt not kill." Eventually that will apply to all states and I hope to the world: "Thou shalt not kill."

Let us look closely at 100 years in Canada. We are celebrating our centenary. According to the information filed on October 24 by the minister, 1,308 persons have been sentenced to death in Canada between 1867 and 1967. Of these, 701 were executed. Then, if we move ahead, we find that from 1961 to September 1967 there were 183 sentenced to

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death, 69 executed and 114 who received commutations. This is an example of mercy being applied as the years go by. But now, in recent years, let us make a study of the statistics filed by the minister concerning what has taken place.

Basically it is a sick man or a sick woman who will kill a fellow human being. We are given information in that regard. Brief mention was made of this by the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Matheson) just a little while ago. If you look at page 9 of the information filed on October 24 which is headed Supplementary Table Bringing up to September 30, 1967 Table D "Leading Characteristics of Capital Cases Occurring Since January, 1957", you will find that 13 cases are outlined. The second last column outlines the mental condition of the person. One was non-psychotic and showed no evidence of neurosis; one refused to be examined by a psychologist or a psychiatrist. Outside of the one with no psychosis and no evidence of neurosis and the one who refused to be examined, what about the other 11? According to the information furnished as a result of their examination by psychologists and psychiatrists we find the following: No. 1—mentally defective and severe alcoholic; no. 2—sexual psychopath showing psychotic behaviour; no. 3—psychic enfeeblement of psychotic character; no. 4—paranoid schizophrenic; no. 5—sociopathic personality disturbances; no. 6—psychopathic personality; no. 7—sociopathic personality disturbance, neurological cripple; no. 8—not psychotic but neurotic complex, disturbed and irrational; no. 9—not psychotic but emotionally unstable; no. 10—very neurotic but not psychotic; no. 11—basically unstable, schizophrenic, possibly epilepsy resulting from brain injury.

Capital punishment or no capital punishment, there would be no control over these individuals or over the fact that they have committed or might again commit murder. We have heard a great deal about the protection of guards and police officers. There is some very interesting information on page 12 of the data supplied by the Solicitor General (Mr. Pennell) on October 24 and I invite members to examine this. It is entitled Capital Cases in Which Policemen were Victims in Course of Duty, January 1, 1940 to September 30, 1967. What do we find? We find that 22 policemen were killed by 20 men. We find that in two cases a new trial was ordered and that there were seven commutations. The remainder were executed.