

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CRIMINAL LAW****CAPITAL AND CORPORAL PUNISHMENT—REQUEST  
FOR CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF  
JOINT COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

wicket to extract a special plate block from other than the top sheet. However, collectors would come up to clerks and press them to do so. They would engage in discussion with them, and very often people who were there for the regular purpose of purchasing stamps were caused delay and annoyance by these tactics. Basically the departmental practice of handling issues of stamps has changed somewhat, and that has led to the elimination of the plate blocks.

**Mr. Marler:** I wonder whether the Postmaster General realizes not only that this practice is very popular with collectors, but is universal in countries other than Canada, and that the elimination of these plate numbers would account for a substantial drop in revenue of his philatelic agency?

**Mr. Hamilton (Noire Dame de Grace):** I have always had tremendous respect for the hon. member for St. Antoine-Westmount as a philatelic expert. He is renowned in that field and has written books on the subject. Therefore I am surprised to find him referring to the practice of including plate block numbers as being universal, because I think if he will search further he will find it is not universal and that certain other countries have abolished the practice of including plate block numbers. As I say, I am surprised at that lapse.

I feel regret, and I know the officials of the department do also, that we cannot continue this practice, which has provided considerable interest to a small group of collectors. I do want to tell the house that I am very grateful to other important collectors in Canada and officials of some organizations who have gone to the trouble of getting in touch with the department and commending the officials on the action that has been taken.

**Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough):** I should like to address a question to the Postmaster General, inasmuch as the subject of stamps has been brought up today. Can he say when the department started to use Roman numerals to indicate the month of the year in marking cancellation of stamps instead of a letter abbreviation for the month. For example, they are using "X-II" in making cancellations. I have not sent notice of the question to the Postmaster General.

**Mr. Hamilton (Noire Dame de Grace):** The hon. member did not give me any notice of his question, but I will be delighted to get him this vitally important and interesting information as quickly as possible.

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I desire to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. I regret that I have not given him notice, but I feel certain he will know the answer. In view of the fact that no consideration has yet been given by the House of Commons to the report of the joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on capital punishment, has the Minister of Justice, under whose jurisdiction comes the remission service which reports to the Solicitor General on capital cases, given thought to recommending the commutation of existing death penalties? Can he advise the house when an opportunity is going to be given for consideration of the report of the joint committee and the entire question of capital punishment?

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, in answer to the first part of the hon. gentleman's question I should say that the report of the committee has been carefully considered in the department and from time to time comes up for further consideration, but there is no present intention of action along the lines that he has suggested.

With regard to the second part of the question, as to when an opportunity will be given for discussion of that report, I would venture to suggest that the first and most favourable opportunity is in the discussion of the estimates of the department, but just when that will be will be determined largely, I suppose, by the developments of the session and in consultation with the leader of the house.

**Mr. Winch:** I appreciate what the minister has said. Do we have his assurance that when his estimates come up the whole matter can be discussed without any snide remarks or interference by the Minister of Finance, who tries to stop us from doing that sort of thing?

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, I regret that in the terms in which the question was framed it would be quite improper, as well as unnecessary, for me to answer.

**INCOME TAX****OMISSION OF LOGGERS AND LUMBERJACKS FROM  
PROPOSED CHANGES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of