

Capital Punishment

sented to the House of Commons on May 1, 1975, attracted little respect and much contempt in this House.

Being from a city which has experienced first hand the tragedy of savage and brutal premeditated murder, it is not difficult for me to understand why my constituents are so forcefully demanding the full reinstatement of capital punishment. The common arguments supporting this view may seem rather meaningless unless you have been personally involved and have seen the effects of such violence on a total community. What would be your reaction, Mr. Speaker, if this press release, which I quote in part referred to members of your family, neighbours, or fellow citizens?

Two slain Moncton police officers may have been ordered to dig their own graves, found the digging tough in frozen ground, and moved elsewhere. The two were found buried in shallow graves Sunday, shot through the head and wearing handcuffs. One handcuff was not fastened in each case. The bodies were found buried on a hilltop near a spot where two graves appeared to have been started, but not finished. The policemen's revolvers, portable radio and other articles were found by the unfinished diggings.

Two other "diggings" had been found near where the revolvers were located, but police could not speculate on who had apparently tried to dig at that spot. The two policemen, one a 47-year-old father of four and the other a 33-year-old father of two, had been missing since early Friday when they stopped to inspect a car suspected to have been involved in . . . kidnapping.

Certainly situations such as this one require more than the 25 year sentence suggested by this bill. Should the life of one who threatens society be preserved when individuals of this kind have so painstakingly planned the death of two innocent victims? Surely there is no means of rehabilitation which could instil in the mind of a murderer a conscience, the element of mind he obviously so severely lacks. Surely we must realize that a mere 25 years of free room and board are no deterrent, and definitely no solution, to such a grave problem as murder.

Let us pause for a moment to consider this situation. A person has committed murder and been sentenced to 25 years. This offers society, at best, a questionable and doubtful partial and temporary security from the killer. Having the greatest incentive to try and escape—and escape they do—it is not unlikely that in doing so two or three guards could be killed. What is to stop the prisoner from successive murders of this nature? Certainly the threat of another prison sentence, added to what already seems an indeterminable length of time, has no restraining power over an individual capable of murder.

The thought that to take the life of another would ultimately bring the destruction of his own being would most definitely produce an obstruction in the mind of the murderer, a mind in which the only element dear to self is self. Let there be no doubt then that the death penalty is a deterrent.

Let us turn to some numerical facts with regard to this matter. Disciples of and adherents to abolition constantly use the argument that during the period between 1957 and 1970, while capital punishment was a written law in this land, murders increased from 129 to 420—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member will be permitted to continue at the next resumption of this order.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[English]

A message was delivered by Major A. G. Vandelac, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

[Translation]

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the House that the right hon. Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to give in Her Majesty's name the Royal Assent to the following bills:

Bill C-92, An Act to provide for compensation for former prisoners of war and their dependants and to amend certain other statutes in consequence thereof.—Chapter No. 95.

Bill S-8, An Act respecting the use of national safety marks in relation to motor vehicle tires and to provide for safety standards for certain motor vehicle tires imported into or exported from Canada or sent or conveyed from one province to another.—Chapter No. 96.

Bill S-3, An Act to amend the Quarantine Act.—Chapter No. 97.

Mr. Speaker: It being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

At 6.01 the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.