

*Criminal Code*

than that of sightseers being permitted to watch an execution by hanging or otherwise.

Just a few weeks ago I was startled to learn that an African ruler in one of the emerging nations arranged, through the due process of an act of parliament, the execution of a political or revolutionary murderer, and arranged that this execution take place in full view of the bereaved survivors for his and their satisfaction.

Yes, we of a more mature civilization have progressed more rapidly and further in this so-called process of evolution and can only look upon such savagery with nothing but horror and revulsion. Yet we retain the institution itself, with only those directly concerned with the mechanics of the operation participating in the inhuman act. Surely it is our duty as legislators, commonly regarded as leading citizens, to take the initiative, and in this sense I simply infer that we should lead by example. Perhaps this proposed bill could be the first step toward eliminating the ills within our social structure which cause such derangement of human minds as results in the crimes of murder, homicide, rape, or worse.

For those who seriously contend—and they are legion—that capital punishment is a valuable deterrent, let me say that to accept such a premise is abjectly to admit the failure on the part of society to alleviate the causes of murder. True, we may deter for all time the possibility of one individual ever again committing the crime of murder. We have not, however, taken a meaningful step to remove the cause. We simply have managed to bury forever the evidence of this one single failure on the part of society.

The emotionally disturbed persons—that is, persons of unbalanced minds, often caused by the stresses of poverty, broken homes, sexual frustrations and drunkenness—are the ones most frequently involved in the crime of murder. While society appears to be making some progress against the scourge of poverty, usually associated with incompetence due to lack of education, we now are faced with a new problem, a problem arising from rapidly developing automation and technological change.

I would like to quote Professor Reid, Professor of Economics at York University, who said:

"During the 1950's the new technology of automation began to cleave society, particularly its younger members, into the two clearly distinguishable classes. Today one class is made up of the undereducated most of whom, because they are

undereducated are chronically unemployed or work only sporadically and who, because they are unemployed, live in deprivation, poverty or destitution."

Our new technology may very well cement those conditions in our society which tend to perpetuate the sons and daughters of the poor staying poor and to perpetuate the sons and daughters of the middle and wealthy classes staying middle class and wealthy. In Professor Reid's opinion, the educational system of our time fails lamentably in eradicating a long standing social evil.

Let us not then take the negative approach which may satisfy our conscience simply by hanging or imprisoning for life the product of this social condition. Let us do something practical; yes, more productive. Let us do so by mounting an all-out assault on the economic barrier against the obtainment of higher or even secondary education.

Sexual frustrations resulting in criminal perversion, I believe, may be traced to the serious lack of education in respect of such matters in our schools and homes. The dissemination of the knowledge of sex, the most powerful, indeed the most necessary of all human passions, is to all intents and purposes left to murals and hieroglyphics on toilet walls; in some cases it is left to the incoherent jargon of minds already rendered unwholesome by the system and by the vicious pornographic peddlers of our time. No wonder perversion with all its consequences develops among young and mature alike.

Is any real progress being made to rehabilitate unbalanced minds resulting from these social ills? *Maclean's* magazine, a reputable non-fiction periodical, in a recent article informed us there are one and a half million sure, and perhaps a million more, emotionally disturbed children in Canada today. Author Sheila Keirn says that authorities estimate there are 30,000 children whose disturbance is so severe that they require institutional care. Yet there are facilities for treating fewer than 500 children in Canada.

Now, may I address a few words to my colleagues who are members of my own Catholic faith. Surely in a matter such as this we should give equal if not prior consideration to the teaching of the New Testament rather than conform to the Old Testament. If Christ's admonition to turn the other cheek and his often quoted prayer for his own executioners, "O Father forgive them, for they know not what they do" have any real meaning, it categorically rejects the barbaric practice of retribution.