

*Criminal Code*

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has no question of privilege.

[English]

**Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, as this debate is to be conducted on a non-partisan basis I trust the house will not accuse me of putting in a plug for the Young Progressive Conservative organization of Canada when I say that I agree wholeheartedly with the resolution they passed at their recent meeting in Ottawa. The resolution reads:

Be it resolved that capital punishment be retained for the following crimes:

- (i) Treason.
- (ii) The murder of law enforcement officer(s).
- (iii) Premeditated murder.
- (iv) Murder committed by a person already convicted of murder.

Because I support that resolution, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support the resolution before us today. Although I should like to comment on some of the parts of the resolution I am prohibited from doing so because of paragraph (a) which reads:

- (a) abolishing the death penalty is respect of all offences under that Act;

Before I go into my reasons for supporting the Young Progressive Conservatives' resolution I want to say that I was very impressed yesterday by the remarks made by my colleague, the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Nugent). As I say, I was very impressed, but I was not convinced by his remarks. I should like to refer to a few of his remarks and say to him that I do not believe he is an abolitionist at all but a qualified retentionist because he said, as found on page 3096 of *Hansard*:

I, as a citizen for this country, feel that the only excuse society has for taking the life of any person is if it is proven necessary to do so for the protection of our society and our way of life.

I hope we can prove that it is so. I will go further and quote a few more of his remarks. The reason I am taking the retentionists' side is that I do not believe the premise he laid down. He said:

I cannot follow the logic of reasoning that if it is wrong for one person to take a life then it is right for a group of us to take a life.

I would say that our responsibility—and I include all members of the house—is on a little different basis from that of the individual in Canada. I say that because we are part of the parliament of Canada, part of the government of Canada. I will have more to say on this point in a few moments.

[Mr. Choquette.]

While I am dealing with this subject I should like to refer to another remark he made, and I should like to emphasize this. He said:

I do not think any of us who ask for the abolition of capital punishment deny it is a deterrent.

He also said near the end of his speech:

...I do not see how hanging a man is going to bring someone back to life.

I would say in respect of that last remark that it will prevent the criminal from repeating the offence he has committed. I should like to refer also to a press article which appeared in today's *Globe and Mail*. It refers to the remarks of the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona and goes on to say:

● (3:30 p.m.)

Capital punishment can be justified only if it can be shown to be the only effective deterrent to the crime of murder, and thus necessary for the protection of society, Mr. Nugent declared.

I hope that we are able to show that it is justified. However, the hon. member contradicted himself when he stated, later, as reported in the same article:

—It is perfectly true that capital punishment is a deterrent—

That statement was made by my colleague, the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

The article refers to the hon. member as having made reference to the history of capital punishment in Great Britain and reports him as having said:

The fears have proven groundless every single time, he said, "Not in one case has there been an increase in the numbers of those offences so direly predicted."

**Mr. Nugent:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. McIntosh:** Yes.

**Mr. Nugent:** I noticed that the hon. member began by quoting words from *Hansard* and then switched to a newspaper article to find an apparent contradiction. I certainly cannot remember saying what has been attributed to me according to the hon. member. Perhaps the hon. member will refer to *Hansard* to straighten out what is said in the newspaper article.

**Mr. McIntosh:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the words I referred to are contained in *Hansard*. I read the words I had marked in the newspaper article and I head the hon. member's speech in *Hansard* and I have the impression