

Amendments Respecting Death Sentence

Mr. Stafford: Neither do I agree with the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson) who claimed that capital punishment would also protect girls in sexual murders, and so on. As I have said, I feel that life imprisonment is just as much a deterrent as capital punishment.

The hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Hees) described in blood curdling terms various forms of murder. He stated that psychiatrists are required to do the kind of work that must be done before criminals are released from prison. Then he said we would let them out on the street "to do it all over again". However, Mr. Speaker, you no doubt noticed that the hon. member for Northumberland did not give one statistic that in any way showed that anybody who had been convicted of murder and came out of prison did commit another murder. He just stood up and made that blind assertion.

Mr. Hees: Would the hon. member permit me to ask him a question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: Can he prove that people who have been released have never committed another murder?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must bring to the attention of hon. members that it is ten o'clock.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

PUBLIC SERVICE—LEGISLATION TO INCREASE PENSIONS OF RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 11, as recorded in *Hansard* at page 2979, I addressed a question to the Prime Minister. This is the way the record reads:

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Why is it that the list of legislation which was placed on *Hansard* yesterday makes no mention of legislation to increase the pensions of retired civil servants?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that matter is still under consideration.

Mr. Knowles: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will a decision be taken in time for legislation to be introduced at this session?

Mr. Pearson: I am not able to answer that question at this moment.

[Mr. Speaker.]

At that point, Mr. Speaker, I suggested we might deal with this matter on an adjournment debate. In the meantime we have had a debate on the matter during our discussion of the estimates of the Treasury Board on October 31, but we still have not received an answer to the question as to when legislation to increase the pensions of retired civil servants is to be introduced.

According to the rules, Mr. Speaker, I have seven minutes to present my question to the government, and I take it that tonight the President of the Treasury Board will be replying to me. May I warn him that I do not intend to take the seven minutes. May I put the matter to the President of the Treasury Board as directly as I can.

• (10:00 p.m.)

You know the need. You know that the special joint committee of both houses recommended on May 8 that these pensions be increased. You know that we were led to believe in July that something would be done in the fall. When will you do it?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, speaking as the President of the Treasury Board I wish to say that no government in the history of this country has done more for the civil service than this government has. For the first time in our history we have collective bargaining in the civil service. No government has done more with respect to old peoples' incomes than has this government.

An hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Benson: Our old age pensions are tied to the cost of living index, and our older citizens have a guaranteed annual income.

I have answered the question that my hon. friend has raised tonight. He asks, "When will you do something for our retired civil servants?" I have said that this matter is still being considered by the cabinet and when the cabinet reaches a decision, the house will be informed of it. We shall arrive at a decision and we shall make our announcement. For my hon. friend to ask, "When is legislation with respect to this matter to be on the order paper?" is for my hon. friend to miss the important point. The important point in this matter is the government's decision; and the government will make its decision and will bear in mind its responsibilities to retired civil servants and to all the people of Canada.