

Capital Punishment

that this does not affect private members of this House. Our popularity is down too. If you conducted a poll on us you would find that out. Our credibility is down, especially the credibility of those who support the Prime Minister's policies. This is the new Trudeau liberalism. Where is it taking Canada?

What is the history of Trudeau liberalism? Over the past 10 years it has been one of loose government and permissiveness. Its policies have invited an increase in the rate of all crime. In its craven efforts to avoid capital punishment it has disobeyed its own law. It has declared its deep interest in rehabilitation in the past, and has allowed early and easy paroles. The results of this policy have aroused the general public who are convinced that the government no longer cares about protecting persons and property. This is the new liberalism.

Now under the Liberals they bring forth this bill and they say to the representatives of the people here, "We wish to abolish capital punishment and substitute instead 25 years in prison". Through you, Mr. Speaker, I ask the Prime Minister, the Solicitor General, the Minister of Justice, and all the authors of this bill, where is your noble experiment with rehabilitation now? If this bill passes, rehabilitation goes out of the window. Twenty-five years in prison precludes and destroys all hope of rehabilitation for anyone convicted of capital crime. So you see, Mr. Speaker, when you trace the sinuous deviations of the Trudeau government, it is a government with a majority mandate that refuses to govern. It should resign.

The government has a few spokesmen out through the country who are trying to make excuses for this legislation. The other day when I was driving to Ottawa from Napanee, Wednesday, May 5, I was listening to stations CJET, Smiths Falls, and CKWS, Kingston, which were carrying the comments of one named McCaulay, broadcasting over CBC from Moncton, which was the scene last year of the fiendish murder of the two Moncton policemen by Hutchison and Ambrose. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that these two now convicted men captured the two policemen, took them out into the country to murder them, but made them dig their own graves first. The decision on their appeal is being awaited from the Supreme Court and I think they deserve a punishment commensurate with what they meted out to their two helpless victims.

To get back to Mr. McCaulay, the freelance broadcaster over CBC on that date, he said that Canadians are a blood-thirsty lot in their demands for the exaction of capital punishment for capital crime. He was very slanted and sarcastic in his comment. He said the cross-section of the majority of Canadians who demand the use of capital punishment were rural people, Roman Catholics, the less educated, policemen, prison guards, God-fearing Christians—as though Roman Catholics were not God-fearing Christians—older men, right wingers, residents of Quebec. And to top it all off, Mr. Speaker, he had to return to the Catholics again and say that a Catholic with grade 8 education is a typical Canadian "Archie Bunker". The government is pretty hard up for a spokesman to put that over the CBC air waves.

I say as a supporter of those groups, thank God for the rural people, the Roman Catholics, the less educated, the policemen, the prison guards, the God-fearing Christians,

[Mr. Alkenbrack.]

the older men, the right wingers, the residents of Quebec, and those Canadian "Archie Bunkers" who are trying to preserve Canada and to protect persons and property. Thank God for all those people I have enumerated who stand up for the retention of capital punishment. Thank God for that majority of the Canadian people for whom and for whose opinions the government shows such contempt in this bill.

I regard it as one of the prerogatives of power of a democratic nation, governed by responsible government, that it always reserves and maintains the right to demand the life of any of its citizens as the penalty for premeditated capital crime. Along with capital murder, this also includes those convicted of treason against our country. The abolition bill about to be presented to parliament completely ignores the latter crime, which if successfully committed can mean the destruction of our nation and its form of government.

I have profound respect for the opinions of abolitionists, but there is one point more I must make. When I was first elected to parliament in 1962 capital punishment was one of the laws in force on our statute books, although it was only advisedly and astutely enforced from time to time. Capital punishment is still on our statute books to be administered to murderers of policemen and prison guards, although under Liberal administration, since its inception, all cases have been commuted to life imprisonment.

My point is this. The people of Prince Edward-Lennox, my first constituency, and now the people of Frontenac-Lennox and Addington, through a total of six parliaments did not send me as their representative to Ottawa to abolish capital punishment, for had this been their wish, I certainly would have heard of it on the hustings at each election. I also contend that when the state carries out a sentence of capital punishment imposed by the courts it is not committing another murder but is simply administering justice according to the law of the land.

I believe that the will of the people to maintain the survival and security of the collective whole of a nation, such as Canada, is morally correct, and that the retention and exaction of capital punishment for premeditated capital crime, including treason, is not an immoral act. It is indeed the administration of true and swift justice, and there is nothing more morally correct than justice.

Mr. Marke Raines (Burnaby-Seymour): Mr. Speaker, I have some comments to make on capital punishment and I am prepared to make them now, but in view of the time I will call it five o'clock and continue at the next available opportunity.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Pursuant to order made earlier this day the House will now revert to Routine Proceedings for the specific purpose of permitting the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) to make a statement.