

shady environment, where they will graduate into criminality, into violence, into drug trafficking and into shylocking.

When I was working in the social field, Mr. Speaker, with the help of the Royal Bank we opened the first community branch in Canada. And it is funny to see an institution as the Royal Bank establishing itself in a 100 per cent French speaking community as the Montreal—Sainte-Marie riding and working in the social field. One of the first things we tried to do was to free people from shylocking, people who had needed say \$300, a father who had wanted to do as other fathers for his daughter's first communion and who needed \$300, not borrowed from the bank and to be repaid such-and-such an amount a month for a year, but to be had right away and to be repaid in full three weeks later when he got his cheque. As the banking system does not work that way, he would go to the shylock—as we say in English—and get his \$300. That would cost him \$25 a week, and then \$50 and the like. People that do shylocking take advantage of those poor people and continue to lend them money. When those young people are unable to pay, they are told: "Well, you are working at such and such a place. If you do not want to have both legs broken, bring me some goods." They are not really thieves but they want to help their family and when they try to solve their problems, they are caught.

Mr. Speaker, I see that my time is running out. I should tell you that I have known people with records. I worked with young people and I must say that on two occasions, when I was responsible for a recreation centre where a dance was held with a minimum of discipline which was enforced, two young guys came with daggers to stab me because they did not like how I ran the place.

I had two options. I disarmed them. I was strong enough to defend myself, but the young guys thought that I would call the police to have them jailed. On the contrary, I took charge and gave them responsibilities. The delinquency among young people can be due to their family or the lack of trust at school. They cannot succeed like others. They feel ignored and I must tell you that, given my practical experience, if you trust these young people—even if they seem to be the rough and tough kind, it is very often out of defiance—if you know how to give them some responsibilities in their field, they can change, they can learn to respect others.

But, if you alienate them, they are lost; if I had called the police, these two young men would never have come back to the community centre. They would have continued to patronize the tavern. Others would have taken advantage of them and today, perhaps, they would be in a penal institution. The truth is, they have served a short time, but they are now rehabilitated. They have been educated.

Mr. Speaker, my time is up. I would like to conclude by saying to Hon. Members who are in favour of capital punishment: I strongly invite you to change your vote and join us in a campaign, the strongest campaign ever mounted in Canada, to force the Conservative Government to set up programs to

make sure that people sentenced to a term in prison actually serve their term, but that those who must be withdrawn from the prison system and trained, are taken care of.

• (2130)

[English]

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to rise tonight to speak in this very important debate. I am aware, as are all Hon. Members, that the entire country is watching us with interest this evening. There is no other issue before this House which has commanded such interest and concern for most Canadians. Most Canadians have knowledge of, and a real interest in, the outcome of this debate on capital punishment. Tonight we will vote on a motion proposed by the Canadian Parliament to establish a committee to examine the reinstatement of capital punishment. If this motion is passed, the committee will draw up legislation to present to this House dealing with offences punishable by the death penalty as well as the method of execution. If the motion does not pass, the subject dies with it for now.

I say "for now" because I do not believe that the question of whether or not Canada should have a death penalty will ever really be resolved. Capital punishment is not a new issue, nor do I believe it is one which will ever completely disappear. Since Confederation, Canadian legislators have been faced with a constant barrage of opinions about the death penalty. The first of many abolition Bills was introduced in the House of Commons in 1914. In 1953, another abolitionist Bill was introduced and defeated in the House. Again, in 1962, a Bill to abolish capital punishment for all offences except treason was introduced in the House of Commons. This Bill was defeated but, nevertheless, 1962 saw the practical if not legal abolishment of capital punishment. It was during this year that the last two executions were carried out in Canada.

In 1966, a multi-party Private Member's Bill calling for the abolishment of capital punishment was defeated again. However, the next year a Government Bill was passed which abolished capital punishment except in the case of murder of prison guards and policemen, for a five-year period, that is. As all Hon. Members are aware, this legislation was extended for another five years in 1973 by the Government of the day. Finally, in 1976, a Bill abolishing capital punishment was passed in the Canadian House of Commons. Since then more than 40 Private Member's Bills have been introduced calling for the reinstatement of the death penalty.

Historically, then, it would seem that this is not a subject which has any sort of easy resolution. However, the prevailing constant I have been able to find on this subject is that the majority of Canadians have traditionally supported the death penalty. Although the degree of support varies, it has not fallen below the majority in favour for all these years. There have been times of fairly significant increases in public support for capital punishment, but over-all, since before the 1976 legislation abolishing capital punishment, public support for