

*Capital Punishment*

find it distasteful that those who propose the various methods of execution always propose them for someone else to carry out. They want someone else to do their dirty work.

If there are no logical, moral reasons why society should execute a person, then it seems to me that there is only one reason that remains why proponents of capital punishment continuously pursue this issue. They are interested in vengeance and retribution. I contend, Mr. Speaker, that we cannot have laws based on vengeance and retribution. I do not think Canadians want laws based on those two qualities. They want reason, and laws that will lead to the ultimate protection of society.

In 1976, Mr. Speaker, I voted against the death penalty. I think this is an unnecessary and wasteful debate and I shall vote against the motion this evening.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lambert:** Mr. Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** The hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) on a point of order.

**Mr. Lambert:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne) whether he was the author of the document he read to us because, as you know, Mr. Speaker, it is a tradition in this House that hon. members not read speeches that were obviously prepared elsewhere. I studiously observed the hon. member. He tore away page after page which had been stapled to the previous page. I just ask him, quite honourably, whether this is a speech—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lambert:** I could not care less what the hon. member from—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Order, please.

**Mr. Lambert:** On a point of order—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** I appreciate the hon. member's point of order and he has made it, but the Chair faces two difficulties. The first is that I know of no regulation, rule or Standing Order which relates to members dealing with or reading speeches prepared by themselves or prepared by anybody else.

**Mr. Lambert:** Oh, oh!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** The only reference that I know of that is made is that by tradition, members are not expected to read a speech verbatim, but, rather, to use notes.

I simply want to assure the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) that if the Chair is to begin to enforce the rule that members may not read verbatim, then the axe will fall everywhere equally in the House.

**Mr. Lambert:** Oh, oh!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** I will recognize the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi simply on the basis of equity but the point of order raised by the hon. member for Edmonton West—

**Mr. Lambert:** Mr. Speaker, you are blind. I would just— No, Mr. Speaker—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Sit down.

**An hon. Member:** Apologize.

**Mr. Lambert:** Oh, oh!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** I dealt with the point of order raised by the hon. member. I will disregard that comment and recognize the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi.

**Mr. Lambert:**—disgrace.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** In answer to the rather facetious remarks of the hon. member, I want to tell him that when I make a speech in this House I usually prepare some notes. I happen to have a stapler in my office, so it is not very difficult to staple the pages together. The notes I used make up about half of my total remarks. In the final analysis, I resorted to reading from my notes because when I departed from my notes, the heckling from the opposite side was so intense that it was virtually impossible to speak and be heard.

**An hon. Member:** You deserved it.

**Mr. Lambert:** Mr. Speaker, a point of order—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** The hon. member for Edmonton West on a point of order.

**Mr. Lambert:** I will simply say, Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. member and in deference to some of the several catcalls from some of the backbenchers—

**An hon. Member:** Apologize, you have no respect for the Chair.

**Mr. Lambert:**—on the government side whose usual retort and operation in this House is to yell from their seats with little or no participation in this House—

**Some hon. Members:** Order, order.

**Mr. Lambert:** Mr. Speaker, I will make my point. This House has proceeded for many years on the basis of hon. members making their contributions, not from prepared texts, not piled up on—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Order, please.

**Mr. Lambert:**—yet we see a continuing—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Order, please.