

Questions

STATISTICS RESPECTING DEATH SENTENCES

Question No. 2,025—Mr. Bell (Carleton):

1. Since the publication of the supplementary table, capital case statistics for Canada at page 65 of the white paper on capital punishment, how many persons, by years, (a) have been sentenced to death (b) have been executed (c) have had sentences of death commuted (d) have been sentenced to death but whose cases are (i) before the courts (ii) awaiting decision of His Excellency the governor general in council?

2. What disposition has been made of the cases of the persons shown on the said supplementary table as still being before the appeal courts, showing by years, how many (a) had their appeals granted (b) were executed (c) had sentences commuted?

3. In respect of all cases subsequent to May 6, 1965, what were the leading characteristics of the case, the information being classified on the same basis as table D at pages 100 to 103 inclusive of the white paper?

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): 1. (a) May 25, 1965 to December 31, 1965, 10; 1966, 12. January 1, 1967 to January 27, 1967, 1. (b) May 25, 1965 to December 31, 1965, 0; 1966, 0, January 1, 1967 to January 27, 1967, 0. (c) May 25, 1965 to December 31, 1965, 3; 1966, 2. January 1, 1967 to January 27, 1967, 0. (d) (i) May 25, 1965 to December 31, 1965, 3; 1966, 9. January 1, 1967 to January 27, 1967, 1. (d) (ii) As of January 27, 1967, 0.

Note: In accordance with the practice in recording such statistics, each case is carried through to its conclusion under the year in which the sentence was imposed. Thus the two cases shown under 1 (c) for 1966 were actually commuted on January 24, 1967. The cases shown under (d) (i) are presently before the appeal courts. It should also be noted that in the period May 25, 1965 to January 27, 1967 there were five capital cases in which new trials were ordered which did not result in subsequent convictions for capital murder.

2. (a) 1962, 0. 1963, 0. 1964, 1*. January 1, 1965 to May 25, 1965, 0. (b) 1962, 0. 1963, 0. 1964, 0. January 1, 1965 to May 25, 1965, 0. (c) 1962, 1. 1963, 1. 1964, 0. January 1, 1965 to May 25, 1965, 4.

* In this case the accused was again convicted of capital murder on his second trial.

Note: Two of the cases shown as sentenced to death in the period January 1, 1965 to May 25, 1965 are still before the appeal courts.

3. The cases subsequent to May 6, 1965 up to and including January 27, 1967 are shown on the following table.