

*Criminal Code*

and provide for the execution of a sentenced man. In order to prevent any backtracking, let us start by giving a life sentence to a murderer and if he ever commits another murder, he should be hanged unremittingly.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that my amendment is in accordance with the wishes of the people, because I am convinced that they are not ready to accept the resolution in its present form. That is impossible. As a matter of fact, as I said earlier, some socialist or socialist-minded people would want us to pass the resolution in its present form. It is absolutely necessary to come to an agreement on this matter, because there is no agreement at all.

In fact, I am almost certain that the house is actually split in the middle. As we must pass a most important law for the nation, I feel we should reach an agreement, so that this house may be unanimous and I hope that through the members, good will will make an understanding possible.

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. Before I put the amendment moved by the hon. member for Roberval, perhaps the hon. member would allow me to point out that it might be more in conformity with our regular procedure if the hon. member were to find as his seconder a member who has not already spoken in this debate.

**Mr. Gauthier:** I propose the hon. member for Portneuf (Mr. Godin) as the seconder, Mr. Speaker.

● (7:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is the opinion of the Chair that the amendment is in order.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Ovide Laflamme (Québec-Montmorency):** Mr. Speaker, in accepting to take part in this important debate, I tried to stay away from emotionalism which it is so easy to fall into.

In my view, to state the debate by calling on leniency for the convicted criminal, or to quote eloquently words from the Bible or to reduce the issue to a personal experience, gives an unrealistic picture to the mind, creates confusion and does not meet the requirements of reason.

For my part, it is regrettable to use expressions such as: "The killer state", "evolution of society", "civilized society", "barbaric deed", and so on.

[Mr. Gauthier.]

It is the bounden duty for a state to provide security for its citizens and to curb crime by appropriate means. This responsibility weighs heavily when it is necessary to protect innocent lives, and there is no room for slackness, candour and pity.

To dream of a society where the rights of each citizen are respected by everyone is the final hope of every reasonable being. It is even unthinkable that human beings should kill without pity, take the life of others, of those they do not even know, or kill for money. Unfortunately, this is sadly true.

We shall not have a civilized society as long as we have organized crime, the underworld, paid killers, armed robbery experts, indiscriminately gunning down policemen and people in the street.

This picture is degrading, disgraceful, but it is real and true, and it does not call for hypothetical uncertainty nor poetry.

Compassion toward these traitors is premature. Let us consider together the means of eliminating potential murderers at the outset. Let us get our youth interested in useful occupations, particularly those subjected to the evil example of parents of broken homes. Let us eliminate hate literature; let us remove from children's eyes films of violence, showing ways to steal and commit murder; let us ensure respect and dignity of those in authority, of civil and judiciary power. When the sense of values will have meaning for the whole of our society, such as debate will have long since lost its usefulness.

In 1961, as the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) observed, this house approved important amendments to the Criminal Code establishing categories of murder and reducing death sentences considerably and giving the provincial departments of justice certain discretion in the framing of charges.

In fact, this legislation was well inspired and brought about a significant change in government thinking on the punishment of the crime of murder.

It should nevertheless be admitted that the implementation was considerably altered by the number of commutations passed since so that it is most difficult to gauge the benefits of those amendments. Abuse of commutation has disrupted the results.

The concept of abolition is generous, idealistic and also emotional. I should like to emphasize to the house the numerous speeches heard this afternoon in support of the abolition of capital punishment. These