

Capital Punishment

they feel is too permissive, a society which they feel has no means of handling those people who are unable to function with their fellow members in that society and, as the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) pointed out, from the economic and social injustices which rankle so deeply in our private enterprise society.

It seems to me, therefore, that we must resort to examining the question from the philosophical point of view. What is it that distinguishes mankind from the rest of the animals? Not necessarily the ability to reason, because some animals have shown that ability in varying amounts. But the one thing that man can do that other animals cannot do is to store experience.

The wild animal in nature teaches his young or her young by instinct and example and one generation after another learns in exactly the same way. But mankind is able to store his experience in history books, in monuments, through artifacts and the like. We must believe that man, through his ability to store experience and to learn from the past, is rising in the scale of human evolution. Despite this ability to store experience, it seems to us that the beast still lurks just below the sophisticated veneer of modern man. This is hardly surprising since man has been on this earth for a relatively short period of time in comparison with the entire scale of life, the continuum of life on this earth.

To paraphrase an example used by Dr. Miller, I ask you to imagine a rope stretching from Toronto and ending at

the Speaker's chair in the House of Commons. This rope will represent the natural scale of life—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I regret having to interrupt the hon. member, but I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, it is the desire of the Right Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General that this honourable House attends him immediately in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bill:

Bill C-127, an act to amend the Pilotage Act—Chapter No. 1.

At 6.07 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.