

Contemporary society is producing a singularly savage type of animal, entirely lacking in comprehension of, or respect for, the lives of other people. These psychopaths know perfectly well what they are doing is wrong legally and morally, but the act of murder causes them no sense of personal revulsion.

I reject the idea that society seeks vengeance. I call it simple justice and a desire for safety. Most people subscribe to the opening line of an Ontario Provincial Police advertisement which reads:

Let there be more respect for the law.

The government certainly has not subscribed to that notion. The government knows full well it has failed so many times to enforce existing capital punishment laws that abolition is its only way to cease its habit of ignoring the law.

I believe that so far in the course of my remarks I have made it clear I reflect the views of the majority of those who favour the retention of capital punishment. However, many people are saying that if executions are to remain on the books then people should be assured that the latest scientific and medical evidence is used to find an alternate to hanging.

When I presented a motion on February 10 of this year under Standing Order 43 to have the subject of capital punishment referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs to find a more humane method of applying capital punishment, I did so because of two overriding concerns; first, the majority of Canadians favour retention; and second, many people consider hanging barbaric.

I did not appreciate the answer of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) who, in response to a question of mine relating to an alternate method, said that if abolition is not accepted then we could address ourselves to the question of how we should destroy these people. His whole attitude seems to be "holier than thou," as if he believed that somehow he might become foul and base if he seriously discussed this matter. I still contend that we must look at this in a sober, realistic manner and come up with an alternative, whether it be the electric chair, the gas chamber, medication, or whatever. A more civilized and efficient manner would help to ease the qualms of those who are repelled by the rope.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

Mr. Hugh Poulin (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, in the last few moments of his speech the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie) addressed himself to the original question he asked, which is what are the other more humane methods of execution of people who have committed crimes that we should investigate. Surely that is not the issue to which we should be addressing ourselves either in this parliament or in this country.

We should be addressing ourselves to investigating ways in which to protect society against violent crime and to deter others from committing horrible crimes. If members of the House are concerned with finding humane ways of putting people to death, I begin to wonder whether they are not ashamed to agree to capital punishment, because it has not shown itself to be a deterrent in the commission of horrible crimes. As we all know, some years ago in Eng-

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land hundreds of minor crimes were punished by the death penalty, such crimes as pickpocketing or petty theft. The penalty was public execution, during which other pickpockets had the opportunity to make more money and were doing far greater business. But at least society at that time had the courage to have the execution take place in full public view in the hope that it would deter others from committing this type of crime. It was not a deterrent then, nor is it now.

I think the people of this country must decide whether or not society can be protected from terrible crimes by adopting capital punishment, whatever means are used whether by rope or otherwise, whether in public or otherwise, or whether we should hide behind some more humane way of executing people thereby not accepting our responsibility as members of parliament and leaders in this country to execute people who have committed crimes.

I say we only have one justification for capital punishment, that is, to protect society and guarantee to society that there will be no more horrible crimes committed because we execute one or two people by whatever humane method we adopt. All the studies that have been conducted in this and other countries of the world have indicated that there is no perceptible difference in the crime rate whether there is capital punishment or whether there is not, especially so far as such crimes as murder and similar types of offences are concerned.

The hon. member hopes that this debate into which we are about to enter in one or two weeks will resolve once and for all the issue of capital punishment. I do also, and I hope it will resolve it in a way that will show Canada is a leader among the nations of the free world in the humane way in which it treats people and protects its society against violent crimes. I believe we should abolish capital punishment.

● (2210)

INDUSTRY—DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT, MALTON—MEASURES TO SAVE JOBS—DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF AEROSPACE POLICY

Hon. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, last Friday and again this afternoon I directed questions both to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald) and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Jamieson) with regard to the announced lay off of almost 150 workers at the Douglas Aircraft plant in Malton. I also asked the appropriate ministers to state when we can expect an announcement in this House about a comprehensive and sound policy for the Canadian aerospace industry.

I directed these questions to the ministers not only because I am sure all hon. members of this House are saddened by the announcement yesterday by the management of Douglas Aircraft in Malton, Ontario, of the lay offs of 150 workers, but also because of the uncertainty of the preservation and expansion of the aerospace industry in Canada, which not only includes the highly skilled workers in the aircraft plants but also the auxiliary help in research and development, whether it be at those plants, at our universities, or at the National Research Council, where we know many government grants have been frozen.