

Capital Punishment

legislation as it is applied across the country. The other would hamper the police in performing their duty to preserve the peace and protect the public.

I would propose to address the proposed modification of subsection 101(2) of the Criminal Code first. Let us be clear from the outset with regard to the present Criminal Code provisions set out in respect of search for and seizure of firearms. Where the police have reasonable grounds to believe that it is not in the public interest for the individual who is believed to be in possession of the firearms to retain them in his possession, there are two possible courses of action. Section 105(1) of the Criminal Code states that upon application to a provincial court judge made by or on behalf of the Attorney General with respect to any person, the provincial court judge is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing it is not desirable in the interests of the safety of that person, or of other persons, that that person should have in his possession custody or control any firearm or other offensive weapon or any ammunition or explosive substance, the provincial court judge may issue a warrant authorizing the search for and seizure of any firearm or other offensive weapon, or any ammunition or explosive substance in the possession, custody or control of that person.

Subsection 101(2) reads that where, with respect to any person, a peace officer is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that it is not desirable in the interest of the safety of that person, or of any other person, that that person should have in his possession, custody or control any firearm or other offensive weapon or any ammunition or explosive substance and that the danger to the safety of that person, or other persons, is such as to proceed by way of an application—I notice, Mr. Speaker, my time has run out and I thank you very much.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hour provided for consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 42(1) the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

Pursuant to the motion adopted earlier today pursuant to Standing Order 94(b) the House will now revert to the consideration of the motion on capital punishment and the amendment of Mr. Robinson.

• (1710)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REINSTATEMENT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski:

That this House supports, in principle, the reinstatement of capital punishment and directs that a special committee on reinstatement, composed of 15

members, be established, hold hearings and make its final report to the House no later than three (3) months following the adoption of this motion, such report to provide recommendations on:

- (a) which offence or offences should carry the death penalty, and in what circumstances;
- (b) which method or methods should be used to carry out the penalty of death, and in what circumstances;

That, pursuant to Standing Order 107(1), this special committee be hereby appointed as a committee to prepare and bring in a bill no later than three months following the adoption of this motion, founded on the committee's recommendations on (a) and (b) above; such a bill shall be the object of a separate and distinct report of the special committee, and such a report shall be its final report;

That such bill, when reported from such special committee to the House, be deemed pursuant to Standing Order 107(1) to have been introduced and stand on the Order Paper, in the name of the special committee chairman, for first reading at the next sitting of the House; and that subsequent House stages of the bill be considered under "Government Orders", with the bill standing under the heading "Government Business"; and that, when the said bill has been read a second time, it shall stand referred to a Legislative Committee;

That the Striking Committee be empowered to name the Members of the special committee, provided that once the Striking Committee report is laid upon the Table, it shall be deemed concurred in;

That the special committee have the power to sit while the House is sitting and during periods when the House stands adjourned;

That the special committee be empowered to report from time to time and send for persons and papers, and to print such papers and evidence from time to time as may be ordered by the committee and to retain the services of expert, technical, professional and clerical staff;

That the special committee be empowered to adjourn from place to place inside Canada and that, when deemed necessary, the appropriate staff accompany the committee;

That a quorum of the special committee be eight (8) members for any vote, resolution or other decision; and that the chairman be authorized to hold meetings to receive evidence and authorize the printing thereof whenever six (6) members are present;

That any substitution of membership on the special committee be made pursuant to Standing Order 94(4); and

That, notwithstanding the usual practices of this House, if the House is not sitting when the special committee is ready to issue its final report and the said bill, the special committee shall present its report and the bill to the House by filing them with the Clerk of the House provided that the report shall then be deemed to have been laid upon the Table, and the bill shall then be deemed, pursuant to Standing Order 107(1), to have been introduced at the first sitting of the House thereafter and to stand on the Order Paper in the name of the special committee chairman, for first reading at the next sitting of the House; and that subsequent House stages of the bill be considered under "Government Orders", with the bill standing under the heading "Government Business".

and on the amendment of Mr. Robinson (p. 5331).

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to the motion adopted earlier today pursuant to Standing Order 9(4)(a) the House will now revert to the consideration of the motion on capital punishment and the amendment of Mr. Robinson.

Are there any Members rising?

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wish to know if we have a quorum to proceed.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis. I do see a quorum.

Is the House ready for the question?