

Capital Punishment

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. Nystrom (p. 7307).

Mr. Riis: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Kaplan: A point of order.

Mr. Lewis: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I shall hear first from the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, followed by the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) and then the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan).

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I have reconsidered. I shall proceed in a different fashion.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis).

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, before we resume the ongoing debate on capital punishment, taking into consideration that we are holding discussions in an effort to expedite the business of the House and make the House of Commons as productive as possible, I wonder if I might ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader whether there would be a disposition on the part of those on the government benches not to call for extended hours later today.

If he were to so indicate, we would reciprocate by saying that it would not be our intention through the day to be calling for a quorum.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I was intending to refer to that in my remarks. I can assure all Members of the House that the Government feels that the debate on capital punishment is progressing in an orderly manner. There has been a great deal of participation by Members from all sides of the House, representing both sides of the issue. Under that circumstance, the Government has no intention of extending the hours for debate either through the lunch hour or at ten o'clock this evening.

I should point out that Private Members' Hour has disappeared today, with the result that the debate will continue right through. As well, there will not be a dinner break at 6.00 p.m.

I appreciate the Hon. Member's suggestion that, in return for my assurance that extended hours will not be called for, a quorum will not be called at any time during the day.

I am sure that all Members realize that we are all in the position of trying to complete whatever we can with regard to

constituency work and committee work and that it is not possible for all who are on duty to be in the House at all times. I appreciate the assurance given by my colleague in that respect.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) rising?

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): I was not, Mr. Speaker; however, I dare not rise when you invite me to do so.

I think it reasonable, Mr. Speaker, that we undertake not to call for a quorum in light of the Government's undertaking not to move a motion calling for extended hours. However, I should point out that under the rules recently adopted by the House, it does take 15 Members to block a motion for extended hours. So, we will attempt to be vigilant about that possibility, in any event.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—and it is just a technicality. In calling the business of the day, I appreciate that it is often done in an abbreviated fashion. I would ask that the next time business of the day is called, it be done in a more complete form.

Given the manner in which this order was called today, there is in fact no motion on the floor. The next time it is called, I would appreciate it being done in a very complete manner, enabling a full disclosure as to the precise terms of the motion before the House. In that way, there will be no confusion.

Mr. Speaker: That seems to be a reasonable request. I shall ensure that something is done to satisfy it.

The Hon. Member for York-Scarborough (Mr. McCrossan) on debate.

Mr. W. Paul McCrossan (York-Scarborough): Mr. Speaker, I very much welcome this opportunity to participate in the capital punishment debate. I support the re-establishment of capital punishment in Canada. However, I think it would be worthwhile to narrow the issues we are discussing today to those contained in the motion.

In order to bring about focus on the real issues, let me start by disposing of some of the arguments which have received some attention thus far in the debate.

It is often asserted that before capital punishment was officially eliminated in 1976 the law had ceased to be effective and, therefore, restoring the *status quo* ante-1976 will accomplish nothing. Let me state that I agree with this argument.

The second emotive argument which is raised is that somehow those of us who wish to reinstate capital punishment want to bring back the noose. This is not what I want, nor what the vast majority of Canadians want.

The third argument which is raised is that society has progressed beyond the "eye for an eye" mentality; that is, that