

the accused were immigrants not cognizant of their rights. The translators used were not always the best, either, and because of the lack of proper defence counsel in some cases it was believed that not all evidence was brought to court. In passing I should mention that this was the age in which the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation was born.

I am an abolitionist because, once in a while, I like to take a leaf out of the thoughts of certain minority groups in this country; in this particular instance I am referring to the original Canadians, the Indians. Many Indian tribes in Canada never did believe in capital punishment and they never practised it. The Indian people feel that one murder does not justify another murder by the state. They feel that a murderer should have an opportunity to regain his honour. This presupposes that an execution does not take place. I also know that Indian people accept a paroled murderer in their midst far more readily than white society does; indeed there are many instances of the acceptance of a murderer after parole even by close relatives of the victim. I know of such cases in my native north-western Saskatchewan.

I am an abolitionist because there are many deaths in our society which in many instances are tantamount to murder but which are not considered in this light, and the perpetrators get off scot-free. We, in this House, do not prohibit cigarette advertising; yet how many people in this country die each year of lung cancer? How many deaths are there because of the sloppy work of some doctors? Yet, what sentence is meted out to these doctors, if any? There have been instances when bridges under construction have collapsed and many men have been killed. Subsequent investigation has revealed that inferior materials had been deliberately used; yet the presidents of these companies got off scot-free. There have been instances where improper shoring or no shoring at all was used when sewer trenches were dug and men have died; yet no one was charged with murder. There are mines in this country where conditions are conducive to silicosis and lung cancer. Miners die, yet many people who could do something to solve hazards in mines do nothing about them. This includes Members of Parliament.

I am an abolitionist because society collectively breeds murder and when a murderer is guilty, we are all guilty to a degree. Many here consider me as a bleeding heart. I do not think I am one. In 1967, there were 29 murders in Saskatchewan; nine of these occurred on August 15, 1967, when a family of nine were ruthlessly shot down in the early morning hours. Within several days the murderer was apprehended because of the astute work of the RCMP. The murderer was 21 years old and evidence produced at court later showed that he had symptoms of schizophrenia when he was six years old. In the murderer's own words "he had to kill, and kill, and kill", because he felt he was acting as the agent of the devil. He was a patient in a mental hospital from May 29 to July 26 of that year. He was discharged, partly because the psychiatrists thought there was some regression of schizophrenia and partly because there was a great deal of pressure being put on the hospital by the government of the day to cut down on medicare and hospitalization costs. He was found not guilty by reason of insanity. However, if he had been kept in hospital awhile longer this tragic event may not have

### *Capital Punishment*

happened. Immediately after this crime, the mental hospital authorities took steps to screen their discharges a lot more carefully than they had in the past.

On January 30, 1969, seven people were slain with an axe in a community in northwestern Saskatchewan. The suspect was apprehended almost immediately and in the wake of the slaying the Saskatchewan government liquor board store was closed and a scheduled showing of the murder-mystery "Beserk" in a local movie house was cancelled. It turned out that the suspect was found not guilty by reason of insanity. Long before the murder, he confided that he had thought about killing mounties. No one really suspected he was mentally ill and he was never treated. During the trial his mother was described as a woman who drank all the time and was never married. He had three brothers and five sisters, most of whom were from different fathers. In his youth he was inadequately clothed and did not have enough food. He was taken away from his mother at age 11 by the Department of Welfare and lived in a series of foster homes from which he usually ran away. The only happy foster home he had was at Swift Current. But he felt lonely and missed the north country.

I have mentioned these two cases, Mr. Speaker, because to me they illustrate that if somehow the environmental circumstances of these two murderers could have been changed, then perhaps these tragedies could have been avoided. I am an abolitionist because, despite the basic integrity of our judicial system, I sometimes question its infallibility. Judges and juries have been known to make mistakes and the utter finality of capital punishment leaves no room for correction of them. In England, in 1953, Timothy Evans was hanged for a murder he did not commit.

I am an abolitionist because it is in keeping with my personal Christian beliefs. Many retentionists quote from Genesis to justify capital punishment, as do various church groups. They say, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." However, I think of Jesus Christ and the prostitute who was to be stoned by the crowd, and Christ said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone...". Somewhere in the Bible the statement, "Vengeance is mine... saith the Lord" also appears. Consequently, as a Christian, I feel that a murderer should be segregated from society and God, in His ultimate wisdom, will pass final judgment on him.

● (1620)

Retentionists argue for the death penalty. They say that ultimately it will save more lives because of the deterrent effect. However, I remind hon. members that many more lives could be saved by more intensive research into the causes and cure for cancer and heart research, alcoholism rehabilitation centres, providing conditions in mines which will make it less likely that miners will die an early death as a result of silicosis or lung cancer, enforcing safety regulations in our construction industry and so on. We can save many more lives by other methods than by capital punishment.

All violent crimes have been on the increase. Most of these are increasing at a faster rate than murder. Of course, we are not suggesting capital punishment for assault and battery. I believe in law and order and in