

Amendments Respecting Death Sentence

country, an independent board which will examine them very carefully and satisfy itself that this man or woman's mind has been changed to that of a normal human being. Then, and only then, when a man has completed the term in the penitentiary, whether it may be 10, 15 or 20 years, when the examining psychiatrists are satisfied the person has changed his mind to that of a normal human being and has no longer the mind of an abnormal, brutal killer, can he be released. I am referring to the person who has the type of mind of the man who killed Mr. Mayzel. Obviously he planned the crime well ahead of time, going into that store with a gun, determined that if the storekeeper tried to deny him that cash box, he was going to shoot the storekeeper. Obviously this is what happened.

Anyone who could walk in and shoot down in cold blood such a man as the one described in this story does not have a normal mind. As any member of the cabinet knows, after having heard some of these cases recounted, in most cases these innocent people have never been seen before by the killer. The killer has nothing against them, except that they have a car or some money or something that the killer wants. This kind of killer had the kind of mind that would permit him to coldly kill this innocent person, rather than be denied what he was after.

Mr. Mackasey: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Hees: Yes.

Mr. Mackasey: This question is intended to be objective. The point the hon. member has made that has impressed me is the danger under the present system of murderers eventually being released on parole but retaining their killer instincts; am I right so far?

Mr. Hees: Yes.

Mr. Mackasey: Then, does the hon. member know the precise number of people who have been released on parole? I am leading up to a question.

Mr. Hees: It is not coming through very clearly.

Mr. Mackasey: Does the hon. member know how many people who may have been convicted for murder have been released on parole since 1920, and how many of the people who have been released on parole have committed another murder?

[Mr. Hees.]

Mr. Hees: If the hon. member has the figures, and perhaps he has, I would be very glad to have him release them when he makes a speech. At the moment, I should like to finish my own speech. Of course the hon. member can make his speech later.

Mr. Mackasey: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am not making a speech. I asked the question in good faith.

An hon. Member: Make your own speech.

Mr. Mackasey: Now you people are making speeches.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not a point of order. The hon. member for Northumberland has the floor.

Mr. Hees: I would be very interested in hearing what the hon. member has to say. I am afraid, however, that perhaps he was suffering from the same trouble as the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) in that he was not speaking into the microphone. I could not hear what he said. I would be glad therefore if, when he makes his speech, he would speak clearly into the microphone, because we would all be very interested in hearing what he has to say. I could not hear what his question was.

Another thing about this bill which is difficult to understand is this division of the citizens of the country into two categories, those you can murder and those you cannot murder. It is just as simple as this, Mr. Speaker. If a policeman goes to a bank, for instance, after hearing an alarm, and is engaged in trying to stop the bandits from getting away, and if he appears to be having a difficult time and a civilian passerby tries to help him, the bandit or bandits may shoot down the policeman in cold blood, and they could be committed to the gallows. However, if they shoot down the passerby, the unarmed civilian, they cannot be committed to the gallows.

There are far too few citizens who do help policemen these days, but if they do go to the aid of a policeman and are shot down in cold blood, the killer cannot be committed to the gallows. On the one hand, you have the situation where the policeman who, like the man who enters the armed services, is trained for the job of apprehending criminals; he knows when he signs up that this is the kind of chance he takes; he is trained in the use of firearms, and carries a gun to protect himself. If that policeman is shot down in cold blood, then the man who does