

Adjournment Debate

7,388; Nova Scotia, 10,613; P. E. Island, 1,903; Newfoundland, 3,085; Quebec, 50,766; Ontario, 82,537; Manitoba, 8,110; Saskatchewan, 7,552; Alberta, 23,768; British Columbia, 22,080.

3. Total cost by province of CMC's for students program: New Brunswick \$135,023; Nova Scotia, \$166,292; P. E. Island, \$24,928; Newfoundland, \$72,757; Quebec, \$1,329,400; Ontario, \$1,569,000; Manitoba, \$22,113; Saskatchewan, \$221,468; Alberta, \$31,323; British Columbia, \$354,500; N. W. Territories, \$8,858; Yukon, \$16,500.

[English]

Mr. Blais: May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It being ten o'clock, Orders of the Day!

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

CRIMINAL CODE—SUGGESTED COMMITTEE STUDY OF OTHER METHODS OF APPLYING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, during the past few months the Canadian public has once again been subjected to a flood of articles, editorials, commentaries, and so on in the media on the issue of capital punishment. For nearly a decade this debate has been raging, and I believe I reflect the sentiments of many in hoping that this present parliament will resolve the issue of capital punishment once and for all. In numerous articles that I have had the opportunity to read on the subject it seems to me that those who favour abolition of the death penalty are making a concerted effort, in some instances almost a blind crusade, to cloud the issue by attempting to make people believe that those who favour capital punishment are neanderthal, blood thirsty, mindless individuals.

It certainly is a shame when those with so-called humanitarian motives act in the shabbiest of political manner. They are in many ways bankrupt humanitarians. It leads one to wonder why there is this effort to discredit those who call for the enforcement of capital punishment. It probably stems from the fact that an overwhelming majority of Canadians favour retention. There is a real tragedy when an elitist majority led by the Liberal government manipulates the system to effect its own will irrespective of public opinion.

When one looks at the results of surveys such as the one I conducted in my constituency of Winnipeg South Centre, where 90 per cent of all the respondents were in favour of having the death penalty made applicable to anyone convicted of premeditated murder, one awakens to the sobering fact that the government has no interest in the will of

[Mr. Andras.]

the people. The use of power to thwart the public will is another step in the erosion of parliament.

It is interesting to note that the Solicitor General's office conducted a survey on capital punishment, as a result of which 80 per cent supported the death penalty. The government is so concerned about eradicating the ultimate penalty that it even squandered the taxpayers' money to hire a consultant to report that the public is blood thirsty about hanging. In a report to the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand), one Mr. Fattah reported:

● (2200)

Uninformed or irrational public opinion is not a justification for bringing back the noose.

In the same report this abolitionist goes on to give negative connotations to those who support the death penalty. I suppose one could say, what else did you expect him to say? After all it goes back to the old adage of don't bite the hand that feeds you. I contend an elitist minority is at work; an elitist minority that forgets that since 1967 the murder rate has increased 100 per cent.

To suggest that 90 per cent of the people in my constituency, or indeed a sizeable majority of Canadians are blood thirsty and irrational, is indeed an arrogant and elitist attitude. An overwhelming majority of Canadians favour the retention of capital punishment because they want to live in a society not constantly plagued with fear and rising crime. The government has been negligent in enforcing the laws of the country and people are no longer going to accept such a law approach to law enforcement.

In recent years the government has built up a theory on which much policy has been based, that the rights of the criminal are more important than the rights of society. This has brought about a backlash in public opinion even to the point where one Liberal Senator, Louis Robichaud, said:

I have a fourteen year old daughter. If anyone rapes and kills my daughter and justice doesn't take care of that man, I will do it myself.

Senator Robichaud is by no means a wild-eyed redneck, and neither are the majority of law-abiding citizens who want a return to common sense and a healthy respect for the law.

The death penalty represents the final right of organized society to rid itself of those who will not conform in any respect to civilized life. Such people are a minority and are not to be confused with others who may take life in a moment of passion. There are abolitionists who would lead people to believe that those who favour retention want blanket capital punishment. That is a falsehood. The vast majority of Canadians are normal citizens who find the death penalty a distasteful subject to discuss. Common sense warns them that the removal of the final right of society to carry out the supreme punishment tells the criminal that, no matter how horrible and vicious the crime, his own life will be protected by a society for which the criminal has no respect.

In the many letters and phone calls I receive from constituents, they share with me their concerns about being safe and that their children will grow up in a safe society. They fear those individuals best described by the William Gold of the Calgary *Herald*, when he wrote: