

Capital Punishment

more than ever convinced her that as a society we cannot ever and must not ever condone killing, whether by state or individual, in any shape or form. Let the message be clear and unconditional: Human life is sacred and killing is always wrong.

We know capital punishment is not a deterrence. We know there has been a decrease in homicides and first degree murder charges. We have to ask ourselves why, why, why are we going through with this absurdity? Is it vengeance? Is that what is in our hearts? Can you imagine what kind of world we would be living in today if we had bowed to that most vulgar of passions, vengeance, after World War II? Where would we be today if everyone who lost a father, an uncle or a brother cried out for vengeance in the hour of victory? There would have been no Marshall plan, no reconstruction of Europe, no transformation in Asia. We would have lost our sense of humanity and our reason for living.

In dealing with this question we must understand and appreciate the underlying fears of Canadians, the concern that our justice system is too lenient, the concern that our parole system is too lax, the fear that those convicted of brutal crimes will all too soon be back on the streets, neither repentant nor rehabilitated. These concerns have to be addressed. The fears must be allayed.

When I say we are not a violent society, we must not then permit ourselves to become a violent society. In my own riding after the horrible experience of last summer good people who would never have thought of it before, never considered it before, were out buying hand-guns. These people are not vigilantes. The gun is no doubt more dangerous to them than to would-be intruders or assailants. But they were fearful. Fearful that they were no longer protected, that our judicial system, our penal system had failed them and let them down.

There are over 70 million hand-guns in the U.S., more than one for every family living there. This figure is expected to grow to over 100 million by the end of this century. There is only one kind of animal you hunt with a hand-gun, the two-legged kind. Violence begets violence.

What is the solution? We can begin with the Archambault commission. Is it fair to society when those who have offended society, who have forfeited every right to the freedoms and privileges which law-abiding citizens should enjoy are all too soon back on the streets? Does a life sentence mean behind bars for 10 or 15 years? I think not. Society thinks not.

● (1400)

I began by saying that I was a proud Canadian. We are proud Canadians. The countries of the world do look to our just and rational society. They want to follow our moral compass. We are not the greatest country in the world, only the best. Laurence Grafstein in one of his articles spoke of Canada's tolerant tradition and humane values. Patrick O'Callaghan has said that a country must be seen by reason and logic, not by age and artificially nurtured passion. That is

true. That is the tradition of Canada, to follow the path of logic and reason.

Let us put this sad motion behind us, Mr. Speaker. Let us bury it in the past once and for all. Let us get on with the affairs of state that have made and will continue to make our country, Canada, the best place on earth to live.

Mr. McKenzie: Mr. Speaker, I continually hear the statistics from abolitionists that murders are down. I find it strange that they do not mention the Air India disaster in which 329 people were murdered. If a person or persons are cold-blooded enough to put a bomb on an aircraft their plan is to murder everyone aboard that aircraft. I would have no hesitation to execute a person or persons who would do such a cruel thing as that.

Statistics also show that attempted murders are up 939 per cent. Those are tremendous figures. The reason that there are not more deaths as a result of attempted murders is because of advanced medical technology, paramedics, use of protective clothing, et cetera. Rather than the murder rate being down, there has been a tremendous increase.

I find that abolitionists have no sympathy for and make no comment about prison guards. Prison guards have been murdered in my province by convicted murderers. Since 1977 at least 20 people have been murdered inside federal prison walls by convicted murderers. I would not want to be guarding a person who would put a bomb aboard a plane to murder 329 people. I would not want to turn my back on such a person or be near them for a second. Prison guards are being put in an awful position.

In July, 1982, three prison guards were murdered—one by hanging—by men who were convicted of first degree murder in killings of policemen. In July, 1985, Celia Ruygrok was murdered in Ottawa by a convicted rapist and killer on parole. In October, 1986, Linda Ray was murdered in Belleville by a convicted murderer on parole. How does my hon. friend justify to his constituents murderers who murder a second time? That fact must be considered, as must prison guards.

Mr. Jardine: Mr. Speaker, I think we must differentiate between a murderer and an act of terrorism. It is a sad commentary that the small country of Ireland still has terrorism taking place on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Capital punishment is on the books of that country but I believe, and I stand to be corrected, that the last time anyone was executed in Ireland was in 1954.

We are all concerned about the role that prison guards and policemen have to protect society. However, the fact is that the number of killings of police and prison guards has declined while the number of prison guards and police has increased. When prison guards and policemen accept their vocation they do so knowing that they could very well be faced with violence. It is interesting to note that their on-the-job death rate is much lower than that of many other vocations such as military pilots,