

*Amendments Respecting Death Sentence*

hanging has taken place since all sentences have been commuted. As a result, murderers have kept on killing.

So, Mr. Speaker, capital punishment at times does keep people from murder, from acts of vandalism, out of fear of the noose. When a man does not fear the noose, when he is sure he will only be put in prison, he tells himself that the state will give him bed and board and dress him properly, even if the clothes do have little stripes, but still, he will be dressed decently. Indeed, he will not be cold in winter, nor too warm in the summer. He may even have air-conditioning in some areas. Who knows, after this bill, we may even vote him a new uniform.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** The old army uniforms.

**Mr. Caouette:** The old army uniforms; that might help him even more. All this to say that abolishing capital punishment is an injustice toward the wholesome Canadian people, it is pure and simple injustice. That is why I am opposed to such abolition. The five year trial has been made. We have been making it since 1962 and we know the results: Assaults, murders occur every day and every week in Montreal, in Toronto, in Vancouver and in small places, as in the case I mentioned a while ago when an attempt was made right in the city of Rouyn.

**Mr. Laprise:** It is worse than in Viet Nam.

**Mr. Caouette:** My friend from Chapleau (Mr. Laprise) says it is worse than in Viet Nam. It is similar.

• (3:50 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, if we are to fight crime, vandalism, there are other solutions than the introduction of inoperative bills, legislation which will not serve the best interests of the people, will give security to bandits at the cost of their freedom, somewhat like behind the iron curtain, but in any case, they will have security. If the bandit is sick in jail, he even benefits from medicare. It costs nothing to be attended by doctors, to enter hospital; and drugs are supplied free! Do you realize that these people will be treated better than most of the honest people in our society?

Mr. Speaker, that is why I shall vote against Bill No. C-168 and I maintain that the government and the Solicitor General should have invited parliament to study bills which would assist the Canadian people as a whole, bills concerning, for instance, the economic or social fields, rather than have us discuss for days and weeks a bill to abolish

the death penalty which, besides, has not been applied for five years, since 1962.

The government could have kept on doing the same thing, since nobody ever raised the matter in the house. Furthermore, we could have considered more important and more urgent matters than that. I shall continue to oppose the bill and, although we are forced to discuss it, I wish the minister would revise his stand and send back to the committee Bill No. C-168 for further consideration.

Let the house study it and decide, once and for all, what we could do with it, but only when we have nothing else to do. As long as economic and social matters in our country remain as unstable as they are at the present time and a source of problems as serious as those with which we are faced today, let us stop examining and discussing less important matters, when there are so many important problems to be solved in our country.

That is my point of view, Mr. Speaker, and I think it is shared by several other members. We do not make it a political issue. To us, it is a matter for all Canada, a patriotic matter, if you wish, in brief, a matter of life and death for all Canadians. So, let us put partisanship aside and let us act simply as Canadians; let us work in the best interests of our population. Let us stop this discussion. Let the minister withdraw his bill, and let us start considering measures that will develop our country and make Canadians happier and more aware of the fact that this wealthy country is theirs, that they are the beneficiary of a cultural, economical, political and social heritage, if we, their representatives, take our responsibilities and spend our time in legislating for the welfare of the people, instead of enacting laws that punish them to the benefit of murderers.

[English]

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens):** Mr. Speaker, I have not yet made up my mind how I will vote on this bill, and it is only recently that I made up my mind that I would make a few comments about it. I agree with those who have suggested that there was in fact no need for this measure to be put before us. It is a matter of just a few months ago when the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) produced a list of impending legislation as long as, if not as wise as, the book of Ecclesiastes. Much of this legislation we have never seen on the order paper, and of much we do not know even the title.