

*Amendments Respecting Death Sentence*

Since this government no longer abides by this law, we have seen the number of murders of all kinds increase at a terrific rate in Canada.

I have here a list of 18 prisoners who are waiting for the verdict of the members of the House of Commons, 18 prisoners who are waiting for the decision of parliament concerning this bill.

I have here the case of:

François Shirm and Edmond Guénette, separatists, sentenced to death in Montreal on May 21, 1966, for the murder of an armourer during an arms theft.

The execution was scheduled to take place on November 3, but it was not carried out. Mr. Speaker, in an attempt to steal weapons, these two hoodlums killed a man who was trying to protect his property. As we know what these weapons were being stolen for, we might wonder what the Solicitor General has in mind when he restricts capital murder to the killing of a police officer or a prison guard. What would he do about treason? Although some countries around the world, some states in the United States have abolished the death penalty, treason remains a capital crime and in the amendment before us there is no mention of treason. I wonder if we should not be asking questions about this; anyhow, I think that before we pass Bill No. C-168, we should at least move an amendment providing for treason as a capital crime.

Mr. Speaker, I shall continue to read the editorial:

Douglas Brown, sentenced to death in Montreal on December 1, 1966, to be hung on November 3.

Robert Collin, sentenced to death in Montreal on October 8, 1965, to be executed on November 10.

David Albert DeLeon, sentenced to death in Montreal on April 7, 1967, to be executed on November 17.

Roger Chevalier, sentenced to death in Montreal on November 20, 1965, to be executed on November 24.

Roger Demers, sentenced to death in Quebec on November 16, 1966, to be executed on November 24.

Douglas Joseph Booth, who obtained a new trial and was sentenced a second time in Ottawa on last January 19, and who is to be executed on November 23.

Jean-Jacques Boivin, sentenced to death in Hull, Que., on last January 28, to be hung on November 28.

This already makes quite a list for the month of November.

Roland and Jacques Poirier, two brothers sentenced in Montreal first on June 11, 1955—

I think this should be 1965 instead.

[Mr. Laprise.]

—then October 13, 1966, in a second trial, for having beaten to death Margot Turner, a cabaret dancer. They are to be executed on December 15.

Henri Boivin, sentenced to death in Montreal on April 21, sentence commuted to December 22.

Harold Arthur Ortt, sentenced to death in Chatham, Ontario, on October 12, to be executed on January 9, 1968.

René Emile Castellani, who was granted a second trial for poisoning his wife and who was again found guilty on October 6 in Vancouver. To be executed on January 23, 1968.

Herbert Matthew Myers, sentenced to death in Prince George, B.C. on June 2, whose sentence is to be executed on January 23, 1968.

Jean-Jacques Gladu, sentenced to death in Montreal on October 13, 1966, to be executed on January 26, 1968.

Marcel Bernier, of Shawinigan, Que. grave-digger, sentenced to death on February 24, 1966, for rape and murder of a teen-ager. To be executed on February 23, 1968.

Claude Martin, Montreal longshoreman, sentenced to death on April 1, 1966, for the murder of a barman and whose execution has been set for March 22, 1968.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that the life of those people who have been murdered by these criminals is just as important as that of any police officer or prison guard. At this stage, I am thinking particularly about the parents of the teen-ager who was raped and murdered in Shawinigan by the gravedigger, Marcel Bernier and about the anxiety they must have felt throughout the search for their young daughter and the trial of the murderer.

• (5:20 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, if we are to abolish the death penalty, spare the lives of criminals who have killed honest citizens, let us also think about the families of their victims. The first thing bandits should do for us to abolish the death penalty is to quit killing as they now do.

Another bill will probably be introduced to legalize the homicide of children in the womb of their mother. First the lives of criminals will be protected, then infanticide will be legalized. Right now, a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons is considering a bill on therapeutic abortion. On the other hand, a movement is afoot to give free rein to criminals, to let them roam the country and act as they please. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, where we can find any logic in all this.

So, if confusion is rife throughout the land and the citizenry, I think that some of it is beginning to rub off on our elected representatives, on this government, which makes us suspect that our laws will be amended in