

*The Address—Mr. Kindt*

● (5:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Kindt:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to ask that fellow to get out of the room because he is doing nothing but interrupting. I do not interrupt him when he is talking and I would ask the same treatment from him.

**Mr. Choquette:** Him? It's him.

**Mr. Orange:** No, it's him.

**Mr. Kindt:** He is just an hon. member of the house and if he has not learned yet, because of his brief stay in the house, I will tell him he is supposed to keep quiet, and I think it is up to you, Mr. Speaker, to act on my request.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I should point out that the hon. member for Macleod has the floor and under standing orders he has the right to make his statement without being interrupted, except to ask questions or to raise a point of order. I would ask hon. members to observe the standing orders.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Kindt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Choquette:** May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

**Mr. Kindt:** I have already indicated to others that I shall be glad to answer questions at the end of my speech because there is a time limit on it.

**Mr. Choquette:** Is it a long speech?

**An hon. Member:** Is that your question?

**Mr. Kindt:** One of the things which the Governor General indicated in the speech from the throne is that the Prime Minister intends to have another vote on capital punishment. Much less than a year ago we had a vote on capital punishment. It was a free vote, but since then the government has not carried out the will of parliament. Therefore I ask, what is the use of backbenchers even attending or being in parliament? We voted on capital punishment but what has the government done? They have laughed at parliament; they have not carried out its will. Now they are going to have another vote, rigged in some way so that it is a government measure, and so that when the government pulls the string it will have the backing of its supporters, and thus bring about a favourable result. That is their intention.

I say to the government that if they want to have another test on capital punishment,

then let them put it in the form of a plebiscite to the people of Canada. Let the people of Canada decide, instead of the government deciding. Parliament has already decided and we don't need another vote: All we need is a government that will carry out the law as it now stands.

In my view all votes in this house should be free votes. The free vote on capital punishment was the first in my almost nine years in this house in which I thought my vote was helping to decide an issue. I thought that issue was decided; but now the Prime Minister says we are going to have another vote. He did not like the last one.

I do not want to become personal, but the people in the country are talking about this. They have talked to me in my riding and said, "You had a vote and decided the question of capital punishment less than a year ago. Why are you going to take another vote? The issue is just the same as it was six months or a year ago." My suspicion is that the government is going to wrap this thing up in some way that will make it more palatable to members of parliament.

We have laws concerning capital punishment on the statute books, and if the government is not going to enforce them, then what is the good of this parliament? What is the use of backbenchers if, following their vote, the government decides it will not handle things the way parliament wants them handled? I say we are up against dictatorship; and we are up against dictatorship when it comes to the workings of committees. These ministers opposite don't give one damn when it comes to committees. They pay no attention to committees. We have discussions in committees and make recommendations from committees, but the ministers go their own sweet way.

If parliament is to work we should have a proper mechanism whereby ministers attend committee meetings where committee members can ask them questions and ascertain their views on various subjects. It is our hope that the ideas which come from committees may be translated into legislation, but that for the most part does not happen now.

Frontbenchers on the government side listen to the civil service establishment but not to backbenchers on either the Liberal or opposition side. Ministers like to get committees working so that backbenchers will feel happy, thinking they are doing something constructive. Those ministers have a philosophy about committee work, that it is like a log going