

That situation is not peculiar to Great Britain. Virtually every democratic country in the world, with the exception of the United States, has now done away with capital punishment, and countries in which capital punishment is found are the communist countries, without exception, and most of the right-wing military dictatorships.

Why does the Hon. Member prefer to associate himself and this country with the communist countries and the right-wing military dictatorships and not take an example and lesson from the democratic countries which, as I have pointed out, with the exception of the United States, have all done away with capital punishment?

Mr. Minaker: Mr. Speaker, let me reply through you to the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow). First, I am not familiar with the resolution that was before the British Parliament but I understand that the last resolution which was defeated was confusing. I think it said basically, "Are you in favour of the return of capital punishment for murder?" Obviously I am not in favour of capital punishment returning just for murder, but for specific crimes, premeditated homicidal crimes.

I might throw the question back at the Hon. Member. Why would I vote like a communist country or like the United States? Why would the Hon. Member not vote like the majority of his constituency wants him to? Why will he not do what the people of Canada want? Is the Hon. Member against democracy?

Mr. Benjamin: Read Sir Edmund Burke.

Mr. Minaker: In my riding, 73 per cent of the people in the last survey wanted the return of capital punishment. Let the juries decide whether they want to apply it. Why would the Hon. Member go against the wishes of his constituents? I told the people of my riding how I was going to vote on the question of capital punishment during the campaign. I stayed with that decision. I believe in it. It is something that is just and will help deter homicidal crimes.

The Hon. Member says statistics do not apply. Let us go back to 1962 when we actually had the last hanging. That is when statistics should start. People do not pay attention when something is passed by legislation. They read in the newspaper how many people were or were not hanged when crime rates go up. You have to look at the year 1962, not the year 1976 when using statistics. We can throw statistics back and forth. I know what I believe in and I think that is what the majority of people of Canada believe in. I am proud that I will be able to vote on their behalf here in this House. I hope the Hon. Member will consider that when he casts his vote.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—St. James (Mr. Minaker) said that in his riding the majority of people said that they wanted capital punishment and that he is now going to follow the wishes of his constituents. He said he wanted to be consistent and represent the

people. If that is the case, will he be consistent and resign and call upon his Party to resign since according to the last Gallup poll 76 per cent of Canadians said that they did not want the Conservative Party as the Government of Canada?

Mr. Benjamin: Obey the wishes of your constituents.

Mr. Minaker: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member throws out something that has nothing to do with the issue with which we are dealing.

Mr. Keeper: It has to do with democracy.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I realize this is a very emotional debate.

An Hon. Member: He walked into this by himself.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I hope that the Hon. Member will have an opportunity to rebut whatever statements other Members may make. We still have another few minutes for questions and comments. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg—St. James (Mr. Minaker) has the floor.

Mr. Minaker: Mr. Speaker, when the Hon. Member talks about the most recent poll, that poll will change, and it is changing right now. One of our mandates was to bring forward the debate on capital punishment. We are doing that. Another was to deal with pornography. We are dealing with that. Another one was free trade. We can go on and on. Those are the mandates our Government was given and we are going to provide them for the people of Canada. When they see where the New Democratic Party is on these issues, then we will see where the popularity of the New Democrats is. You can only straddle the line so long. When they have to make decisions and vote in the House, the people of Canada will see where members of the New Democratic Party stand on these issues. The Canadian people will see where those Members stand and then they will decide who they want for government. I am confident that they will decide they want the Progressive Conservatives returned.

● (1720)

Mr. Rossi: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member just mentioned that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) decided to bring the issue of capital punishment back in 1984 because capital punishment was actually abolished in 1976. I would like the Hon. Member to explain why the Prime Minister brought back the issue of the reinstatement of capital punishment as promised but today is against it. Why did he do that?

Mr. Minaker: Mr. Speaker, I guess the Hon. Member was not listening very carefully. I said that one of the promises made was that we would bring back the debate on capital punishment. I think it was very clearly understood that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is opposed to capital punishment but he is a Prime Minister who will allow the Parliament of Canada to debate the issue. He believes in democracy, so there will be a free vote on this issue and I am proud we have a