Amendments Respecting Death Sentence

would be paroled. During that time, their attitude about the desirability of repeating the crime for which they had been sentenced would not have changed.

What will happen in this particular case? As in all the other cases, this murderer will be sentenced to die by hanging; his sentence will be commuted; and in nine or ten years, he will be on the street again, his mind unchanged, ready to gun down another man like Mr. Mayzel, who is described as gentle and friendly. As far as we can make out, Mr. Mayzel never had any desire to hurt his fellow citizens; he just wanted to carry on his life in a quiet, peaceful way. So there is a real possibility that when the murderer gets out of prison, he will be ready to commit a similar type of crime because, as we know, and on the basis of all the reports from our penitentiaries, nothing is done there to change the prisoners' attitudes to life. In fact, their criminal tendencies are developed, because they talk and associate with other hardened criminals who teach them ways of getting away with their crimes a little better next time. When they get out of prison, they have a new outlook, which is not to get caught next time, and to try to be smarter at what they do.

I think we must try to be more sensible and constructive in our treatment of criminals. As I say, nobody wants to kill, and nobody wants to take somebody's life just for the sake of vengeance. But one thing we cannot do is to allow people who have committed these truly horrible crimes to be let out into society again with no attempt having been made to reform them. Those who have been members of the cabinet and who have heard a replay of these gruesome murders read to them in all their gory details, realize how twisted, warped and rotten the minds of these people are, and realize that if we are ever going to allow these people to come out into society again and take their place as normal human beings we must reform them and help them to become normal persons. The only way in which this can be done is by skilful psychiatry. I am told that skilled psychiatrists are able to do quite a lot. They are not perfect, and in many cases they cannot bring about a change in the sick mind, but they are pretty good at improving the attitude of the person under their care.

I say that what this and any successive government must do in approaching this matter in a humane, sensible and constructive manner, is to make sure immediately that we make available to our prisons first composed of the top psychiatrists of the

class psychiatrists in sufficient numbers, so that when we sentence these killers to life imprisonment—which, unless changed, will mean that sooner or later they can come out into society—we will have made sure that their attitude and approach to life has been changed and improved and made more like that of a normal human being.

So I say to this government that its job is to see to it that a very important drive is started to acquire for our penitentiaries sufficient first class psychiatrists to heal the warped minds of criminals, particularly those who commit capital murder.

• (9:40 p.m.)

The record of the government of which I was a member was not quite the same as that of the present government, but we did commute a number of sentences. There will be coming into society quite soon, year by year, a number of people who have committed these terrible crimes, people whose minds, unless they are changed, will be exactly the same as they were when they could bring themselves to sit down calmly and in a cold, calculated way plan these horrible blood curdling crimes. These words, Mr. Speaker, are not too strong, as any member of the cabinet will agree.

I see the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) nodding his head. Any member who has been a cabinet minister will agree with what I say. I am not overstating the case. I say to the minister that we must pay these prison psychiatrists a very much better salary than is available to them for this kind of work today; otherwise we will not get them. This is the type of expenditure which I, or anyone else, will wholeheartedly endorse at a time when we are trying to cut down expenditures. This kind of expenditure is justified today. My information is that good psychiatrists now concentrate their efforts in the big cities, where they can make a very handsome living. In this respect they are no different from any other craftsmen, scientists or businessmen in Canada. We all have a tendency to settle where we can make the best possible living for ourselves and our families.

We owe it to society to pay the kind of salaries that these people can get in the big cities, and to pay them for the kind of work that must be done in prisons. I say that before we allow these murderers to come out into society again they must, first of all, take adequate psychiatric treatment from these top grade psychiatrists. Then, before they are allowed out they must go before a board