

(Mr. Manly) because I think it goes to another very important issue, that the vast majority of Canadians who support capital punishment genuinely and deeply believe that it is a deterrent, that it will save lives.

If we can show that the reality is very different, if we can demonstrate to those Canadians who support capital punishment because they believe it will save lives that they are mistaken, I suspect that the proportion of Canadians who would be prepared to sanction killing by the state would drop quite dramatically.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I say that it is incumbent upon those who are in leadership positions in the Government not to abdicate that leadership, not to opt out of the debate, but to speak up, as has the Minister of Justice, to point out that in fact the sole basis for the return of capital punishment in our society is vengeance, that there is no deterrent effect.

I hope that those in the Cabinet in particular who feel strongly on this question and know that even the chiefs of police have abandoned the argument of deterrence will use their positions to demonstrate to Canadians that the restoration of the death penalty will save no lives at all and, indeed, may even result in the taking of more lives because there are those who will use it as a desperate kind of suicide attempt.

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission—Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, I ask for the unanimous consent of the House to be able to finish my dissertation before the House adjourns for lunch.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to allow the Member for Mission—Port Moody (Mr. St. Germain) to complete his speech which, of course, would be a maximum of 20 minutes?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. St. Germain: Mr. Speaker, I rise in this House today to take part in what I consider to be a very emotional issue which will go to the heart of each and every Member of this House. At the onset of my delivery I would like to enunciate clearly to all of my hon. colleagues in this House, and all the Canadian people whom we represent, that I know this issue has been debated at length all over the world and that unanimity has never been reached on the subject. However, I do believe that a majority consensus has been arrived at in Canada, and that is that certain selected crimes should be subject to a form of capital punishment.

For a brief moment I would like to address my remarks to my constituents in Mission—Port Moody. In the by-election of 1983, and in the general election of 1984, I clearly stated that should the opportunity present itself I would vote for the reinstatement of capital punishment for specific and selected crimes. Today, through you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise my constituents that I have not changed my position on this issue.

In the past four years I have prepared and presented Private Members' Bills on capital punishment for this House and

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Members to consider. I will continue to pursue a direction which I believe will better protect the citizens of this country. As a humble servant of all Canadians, and after having served Canadians as a law enforcement officer, I will attempt today to express my views on this very important topic. My views are not only those of a citizen of our country but, as well, of one who has served in the trenches of law enforcement waging what I believe is an incessant war against crime.

My entire presentation today will be based on what I perceive as logic, not—and I emphasize “not”—on fanaticism, hate or revenge. This issue is merely a question of law and order upheld by a system of justice with the ultimate goal of protecting our citizens from those who would diabolically and deliberately plan the death of another human being. As I have enunciated, the object of this debate is to put all the aspects of this issue before the Canadian people in this forum. I will do my utmost in the next few minutes to point out the rationale of my argument.

I also want to point out that whatever decision this House arrives at I will support unequivocally because, as important as I believe this issue is to Canadians, the fundamental principles of this institution far exceed any one piece of legislation brought before you, Sir, or this House.

On August 26, 1986, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police prepared a position paper on capital punishment and I would like to read a portion of it into the record today. It reads as follows:

The Canadian police community has repeatedly urged the Government of Canada to give consideration to reinstate capital punishment in one form or other, without success. Since the time of *de facto* abolition in 1962 there has in fact been a doubling in the homicide rate in Canada. At the same time there has been no reduction in the level of public concern about child killers, serial murders and the murder of public servants, and there is increasing concern over the growing population of convicts serving life sentences, leading to more and more acts of violence including murder in our correctional institutions.

At the 1984 conference of the CACP the following resolution was adopted:

Be it resolved that the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police strongly recommends to the Government of Canada to immediately undertake a complete review of this matter; recognizing public opinion and addressing the need to reinstate capital punishment as an option within our criminal justice system.

I do not promote that we listen to only one sector of our society. I repeat, we must not listen to only one sector, but certainly we must heed the opinions of those who deal with the criminal element on a day-to-day basis and who, I believe, know the situation very well. I also know that there are abolitionists among police chiefs and policemen but, as I said, we are not discussing one particular group but rather an issue of conscience, an issue for each individual to deal with.

In my opening remarks I made mention of a war against crime. Let me assure you and this House, Mr. Speaker, that it is truly as stated, a war against crime and criminals. For those of us, like the Member for Bourassa (Mr. Rossi), who have worked the streets of our major cities and have dealt with the illicit drug trade, terrorism, child killers and serial murders, it goes without saying that a war does exist. This war is exemplified by the fact that certain cities now use vehicles similar to