

Business of the House

safeguards for anyone who has been the victim of circumstances or who may have been convicted unfairly.

I was interested in a statement made by the Lord Advocate of Scotland, Right Hon. William Grant, at a meeting of the Canadian bar association in Winnipeg last year. The newspaper report says this:

The Lord Advocate of Scotland said in an interview Monday that recent changes in British law restricting the death penalty were a mistake, and it is his belief that Britons share this view.

Right Hon. William Grant is in Winnipeg for the meeting this week of the Canadian bar association. He contended that the gallows is a deterrent to crimes of violence, and that relaxation of capital punishment is a threat to public safety.

"I have practised law and I know of cases where people engaged in the commission of crimes have not carried weapons because they knew it might lead to a capital crime. They would be willing to run the risk of five years imprisonment for theft, but not of losing their lives because they killed somebody in the commission of these crimes."

The experience in the United Kingdom has been detrimental to the abolition of the death penalty. I refer to an item which appeared in the *Montreal Gazette* last fall headed "Rising Murder Toll Is Cause For Concern In Britain". This article originated in London and says:

Concern is mounting in Britain over the rising murder toll, now averaging nearly one a day and twice what it was a year ago.

Conservative legislator Cyril Osborne told parliament Thursday night there had been 50 murders since December 1.

"There is mounting feeling in the country that the death penalty should apply to all people of sound mind who commit these awful murders", he declared.

The homicide act of 1957 abolished hanging for all but a few types of murder.

Further on the article says:

Public, police and legislators are particularly worried by the number of recent sex crimes and the terrifying spectre of a new outbreak of child killing.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with some of the remarks that have been made. It is not possible, by any stretch of the imagination, to legislate positively or absolutely to deal with human conduct and human endeavour. There will be human beings who will defy any law under certain circumstances, but it is another thing to say that we should abolish and remove capital punishment from the statute books of this country. We can affix to the verdict of the jury certain safeguards, certain protections, rather than by abolishing capital punishment for all time and saying, "Regardless of the crime; regardless of whether it is premeditated; regardless of whether it is a crime of passion or a crime of violence, you are not going to have inflicted upon you hanging or some other form of capital punishment".

Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the house leader would indicate the business of the house for Monday.

Mr. Churchill: On Monday the house will resume the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.