

Capital Punishment

and misleading. It is almost impossible to draw valid comparisons between different countries, owing to differences in the legal definition of crimes, the practice of the prosecuting authorities and the courts, the methods of compiling criminal statistics, moral standards, customary behaviour and political, social and economic conditions. I submit that life imprisonment is not necessarily less inhumane than the death penalty. In any event, there is no longer any true life sentence in view of our practices regarding parole which I mentioned previously.

Let me draw to the attention of hon. members two instances of crime which occurred in my constituency. The first incident involved constable Shakespeare. He and his partner were patrolling in a police car and answered a call to investigate a break-in which had occurred in their patrol area. One constable ran out and the other stood beside the car and radioed for help. While he was summoning more help on the radio, a criminal who was lurking just around the corner leaned forward and shot him. Constable Shakespeare fell. He was not fatally wounded but was unconscious and bleeding. The other constable did not know this had happened. He ran to the river to try to head-off the other criminal who was running away. The criminal who had shot constable Shakespeare, knowing the other policeman was away from the scene and that the constable was by himself, came up to the police car, kicked the constable who was on the ground to see if he was still alive, looked him in the face, then shot him three times in the face and once in the heart. If that was not deliberate murder, I should like to know what is. As far as I am concerned, criminals like that should hang.

There was another incident in Winnipeg in which constable Houston was killed. He left a widow and family. Nobody now talks about what happened. There are several other crimes in my area which I could mention. We did not find the murderers in those cases. We do not even talk about those events any more. Somebody said we should reassure the police because the worst thing you could do is parole those convicted of murder. I say that abolishing the death penalty will do more harm to the morale of this country's police forces than almost anything you could do.

I was pleased to hear the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Hees), a long-time member of this House, say the following:

I have always believed that when a member of parliament is made aware that a clear majority of those living in his riding hold a strong opinion on an important matter which is before parliament for decision, it is the duty of the member to express that opinion in parliament on behalf of those he represents, and to back up that opinion with his vote.

Mr. Speaker, I shall finish shortly. I say that we should have undertaken a much deeper and serious study with regard to our problems regarding penitentiaries and rehabilitation. This study has not been undertaken. I suggest that if all members of parliament were to vote in accordance with the wishes of their constituents, capital punishment would be retained.

I remind all members of this House that the vote on third reading is to be held on Wednesday at two o'clock. I expect all members of this House to be present in order to vote. I feel that no excuse for absence ought to be tolerated. No member ought to say, "I will not be present in the House for the vote." The people of Canada expect us all to be present. No member should say, in any circumstance, that

[Mr. Guay (St. Boniface).]

he cannot be here to vote. No excuses should be accepted. I am sorry that I must say this, but the hon. member speaking before me said he had to meet the Queen and he suggested that as his reason for being absent. Mr. Speaker, the vote to be held next Wednesday is of paramount importance. It is more important to be present for the vote than to attend any ceremony. The vote we shall register will affect all the people of our community. It is on a most serious subject, and every member of parliament should discharge his responsibilities and vote. No member should accept any engagement save that of being here and voting in the manner he or she wishes on Wednesday at two o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

After Recess

The House met at 2 o'clock.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

OLYMPIC GAMES

CONDEMNATION OF CANADA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I should like to ask for the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion dealing with a matter of pressing and urgent necessity.

I move, seconded by the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley (Mr. Jelinek):

That this House voice its thanks to the delegation of the Republic of China at the Montreal Olympic Games for the dignity and generosity it has shown in the imbroglio which occurred between the Canadian government and the International Olympic Committee;

That this House deplore the fact that the Canadian government has interfered with the international rules of the International Olympic Committee thus introducing political considerations in the field of international olympics and creating a dangerous precedent for the future of the games;

Finally, that this House extend its apologies to the International Olympic Committee for the way Canada has intervened in its internal administration and has compelled it to meet its requirements, thus jeopardizing the time-honoured principle of the non-political character of international olympic events.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent; the motion therefore cannot be put.