

Criminal Code

I shall only say that murders are being committed in the most horrible and even unthinkable way.

As was stated this afternoon during the debate, the murderer kills for motives of vengeance, passion and jealousy. However, one has but to look at the statistics to see that most often theft is the main motive of the crime. The murderer does not usually kill in order to obtain what he needs for his subsistence.

Most of the time, and it is very unfortunate, murderers are young people in their twenties; they are the ones most often accused of murder before our courts.

Those young people want an easy life, without having to work to earn their living; they want to drink, to lead a disorderly life and indulge in immorality. In my opinion, it is not by abolishing capital punishment that we shall succeed in suppressing murder and crime.

However, I believe it is the duty of parents to keep up their efforts and give our young people the necessary advice and especially the example they need, which is indispensable in cases of that kind, so that our young people may take the right path in life and become Canadian citizens worthy of the name.

This afternoon I heard the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch) say that he had visited some prisons. I had occasion, a few years ago, to visit the Bordeaux jail. As a matter of fact I once had the opportunity of entering what is called the death cell. Only a few steps away was the trap through which the murderer falls into eternity. Fortunately, when I visited that spot, there was no condemned man inside the cell. Still, I believe that if all young men who are now thinking of embarking on a life of crime, of walking that road which probably will lead them to the scaffold, had the opportunity to see that death cell, to have a look at the gallows on which they will pay for those crimes they are premeditating, fewer of them would feel that they are cut out for a bandit's life.

I feel that now is the time to broadcast a vibrant appeal to the young people of this country, to ask them, not only for the sake of their country's honour but more especially so as not to leave in their family's heart a festering wound, to turn their steps along that road which leads to honour and away from crime and murder.

Educators in our schools, colleges, as well as in our universities, are real apostles in this respect, and I am of the opinion that all our young men should bear in mind the teachings of these educators.

That is why I also believe that parents should continue to look after the education already started in this direction.

There is also another reason which prompted me to rise in this house in order to speak on this matter. In my opinion it is also the duty of the state to analyse the circumstances in which most murders are committed, for, as I was saying a few minutes ago, the motive of the crime is, most of the time, theft. Why does one steal? Because, of course, one has not sufficient means to meet one's obligations—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but after having listened to him for several minutes, I patiently expected that he would link up his remarks with this motion concerning the establishment of a committee to consider three things: capital punishment, corporal punishment and lotteries.

If the hon. member wants to give some reasons why he is in favour of capital punishment or of changes in that punishment in order to check crime, it is perfectly in order for him to do so. However, I believe that during these last few minutes he has wandered somewhat from the question which is now before the house.

Mr. Dufresne: I thank you for your remarks. I take due note of them—

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): I hope so.

Mr. Dufresne: I beg your pardon? I take due note of them, but if I wandered about a little I may say that I did like the fellow who wants to go to Montreal. As you know two roads lead there, and I may have taken the longer one, but I will get to the motion just the same.

Mr. Pouliot: You did go to Montreal; you mentioned the cell of those who are sentenced to death in Bordeaux.

Mr. Dufresne: Well, it took me a long time to come back to Ottawa, but here I am at last.

Mr. Speaker, I am entirely in favour of setting up a committee where we will have the opportunity of studying the ways and means of checking the crime wave in order to reduce the number of death sentences. One matter which, I believe, could very well