

Capital Punishment

I hope that hon. members who will participate in the debate will find the way to relate their speeches to the motion.

May I remind the hon. member for Bellechasse. (Mr. Lambert) and all other hon. members who intend to take part in this debate that we have not reached the third reading stage yet, that we are considering the motion introduced by the hon. member for Louis-Hébert and that we may continue to do so tomorrow and for the next few days. There will be another motion to consider later on. I therefore suggest to hon. members that they limit their remarks to the amendment under review; eventually, they may have the opportunity, when the time comes for third reading, to make speeches with a more general approach. For the moment, I would urge the hon. member and all his colleagues to limit as much as possible their comments to the motion now before us.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take your recommendations into account. As always, I like to respect the Standing Orders as well as your authority.

Therefore, according to your recommendation, I will deal only with the motion now before us, that is the amendment moved by the hon. member for Louis-Hébert. Nevertheless, this amendment prompts us to make certain considerations and bring forward some evidence to show to what extent we wish that our fellow citizens' life be protected in all circumstances.

In any event, the amendment of the hon. member for Louis-Hébert reads, and I quote:

"(b) in respect of a male person, where such person causes the death of a female person while committing or attempting to commit rape,

That is the first part. I fully agree with this amendment because it often happens—we have witnessed it on a few occasions—that newspapers report that such and such person, such and such young girl was the victim of a murderer who assaulted her and resorted to cruel means in order to kill her and try to hide her body so as to conceal his murder.

What happens is that if there was in our Criminal Code a least one provision relating to the particular fact stated in the amendment, we would then have a third argument to justify the retention of capital punishment, since we have already two basic points in the bill itself, that is the murder of policemen and prison guards.

The amendment under consideration provides that we should add also, in cases of murder for rape, and I quote:

This is the third item which I quote:

(c) in respect of any person, where such person causes the death of a human being while committing or attempting to commit an offence under section 247, or, if while committing or attempting to commit that offence, such person abandons a human being and death ensues as a consequence."

Mr. Speaker, this fourth item in particular justifies the upholding of capital punishment in such circumstances. Thus, it is evident that the amendment could not anticipate all circumstances under which a murder could be committed. In my capacity as member for Bellechasse, whose population is in favour of upholding capital punishment, I consider it to be my duty to express its wishes in

[Mr. Speaker.]

this House and I can say, after carefully studying these amendments, that I must give them my support so that we may extend as much as possible the circumstances surrounding murder punishable by death. Naturally, the same arguments could be used in many cases, which would be as just as those mentioned in the amendments to Bill C-2.

Mr. Speaker, those are the few remarks which I wanted to make on this amendment. Faced with the facts, with the wishes of the population I represent, I will of course have to vote in favour of this amendment.

[English]

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, at the outset let me say that I support the amendment to Bill C-2 submitted by the hon. member for Louis-Hébert (Mrs. Morin). This afternoon I was shocked to hear her say that she had been accused of trying to prolong debate on this bill. Such an accusation must come from the government side, because no one in this party would deny the hon. member the right to voice her opinion on this subject. If this is a truly free vote why should anyone be denied the right to speak?

The suggestion that the hon. member was accused of prolonging the debate is perhaps an example of the motives of those persons who are trying to ramrod this bill through the House. We must be given time to state our case, present arguments, consider amendments, and deal with the bill on third reading before the door is closed on this matter.

At this point I might say that the remarks by the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert) about the mover of the amendment were a little inappropriate. To suggest that women are too emotional to exercise good judgment in such matters shows a complete lack of understanding on the part of the hon. member for Broadview. I am sure there are many female members of the hon. member's party who will certainly take issue with him over his remarks.

The amendment proposed is a proper one and I would like to see it applied more across the board to cover all acts of murder. But if it be that we must take part measures, then let us get on with it, and perhaps if the hon. member's amendment is adopted we could make a further amendment at a later date to add to the list of crimes that we deem should be punishable by death if an accused is found guilty.

I suppose everybody's opinion on this subject is tempered by his or her personal experiences. If you are one of those who are unafraid to view life as it really is, then your opinions are hardened by your experiences. If you live in a make believe world then you find it hard to accept the punishment suggested in this amendment for the crimes of kidnapping and murder and rape and murder.

If you read the *Ottawa Journal* tonight you will find in it an article reporting that two people were killed in a cafe in Quebec. As a result of the incident one woman was injured and two men are dead. The police said that the shooting "appeared to be the settlement of an account." In another report you read about teenagers tortured in a house of horrors.