

*Royal Assent*

fair to the Canadian public that we at least get an accounting for the tour he made in 1980-81 before he leaves on his current tour in a few days' time.

**Mr. Nielsen:** A three-week tour.

**Mr. Evans:** I would be glad to look into that particular question for the Hon. Member, Madam Speaker.

**Mr. Beatty:** Madam Speaker, perhaps I could bring to the attention of the Parliamentary Secretary questions Nos. 2,672 and 3,506. The first question was placed on the Order Paper on June 23, 1981. The second question was placed on the Order Paper December 2, 1981. Both these questions deal with the policy of the Government relating to public opinion surveys and request that the Government declassify those surveys. What is the reason for the delay in answering these two questions?

**Mr. Evans:** I give the same answer to the Hon. Member as I gave to the Hon. Member for York-Peel, Madam Speaker. I will look into the matter and try to get back to him personally and indicate the answer I am able to find.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

**Madam Speaker:** Shall the remaining questions stand?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Madam Speaker:** Stand.

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## MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

**Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

**Madam Speaker:** Shall the notices of motions stand?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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## THE ROYAL ASSENT

**Madam Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received which is as follows:

Government House,

October 19, 1983

Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Brian Dickson, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor

General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 19th day of October, 1983, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to a certain Bill.

I have the honour to be,  
Madam,  
Your obedient servant,  
Esmond Butler,  
Secretary to the  
Governor General

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—  
MOTIONS

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. Shall all orders listed under Notices of Motions preceding order No. 44 be allowed to stand by unanimous consent?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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## CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

## FREE VOTE ON REINSTATEMENT

The House resumed, from April 3, 1981, consideration of the motion of Mr. Fennell:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of allowing a free vote in the House of Commons on the reinstatement of capital punishment for first degree murder.

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Mr. Speaker, this motion touches the core of a matter which has bothered me and other Members of Parliament for some considerable period of time. In every poll taken, every testing of public opinion in, I suspect, virtually every conceivable constituency in Canada over the past 15 and 20 years, somewhere between 70 per cent and 90 per cent of the respondents to these polls have indicated that they wish—even demand—that the punishment for premeditated murder, which in this motion is called first degree murder, that heinous crime of murder with intent, should be a crime for which the death penalty is appropriate. Yet somewhere along the line certain Members of Parliament, particularly Leaders of Parties in this House, have used the authority of the Party system to prevent a decision on this type of treatment in the Criminal Code to come to a free vote.

The consequence of this is that this Parliament, by the use of the Party system and the control it imposes upon Hon. Members, has managed to prevent what the vast consensus of the public demands. There is something wrong. There is something wrong with the Party system which says not that an Hon. Member should use his own discretion as to what he might want, but which dictates that one has to follow the Party line if one is a Member of Cabinet, a Parliamentary Secretary or a Member of the Government Party. Clearly it is, then, not a question of following one's own conscience when one votes as a Member. It is not a question of following the