

Mr. Speaker: When shall the Bill be read the second time? At the next sitting of the House?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENT TO REINSTATE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-204, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (capital punishment).

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Hon. Member shall have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. St. Germain: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to amend the Criminal Code to reinstate capital punishment for premeditated murder. This is not an emotional plea. This is the consensus of Canadians across the country. It is time to act now.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Ken James for an Address to Her Excellency the Governor General in reply to her Speech at the opening session; and the amendment thereto of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra) (p. 38).

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, when I was speaking before the luncheon recess I quoted a prominent member of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. I should like to emphasize that it is not a coincidence that the Throne Speech and the economic statement have garnered positive reaction from the private sector. The new Government has been lauded for stopping the bleeding in Canada's economic circles. The private sector is encouraged by the same consultation and co-operation so outwardly despised by the Opposition. The Government has been widely criticized for not creating enough jobs.

As was made perfectly clear during the election campaign, we have no intention of using band-aid treatment for a problem which requires major surgery. It would be very simple to create thousands of new job openings on a part-time or jerry-builder basis. That is not and never was the intention of the Government. We will create long-term, meaningful employment through careful planning and assessment of Canadian markets. Providing widespread, sporadic, unskilled employment serves only to keep workers at jobs with which they are

The Address—Mr. Darling

not too happy and which of course will not last too long. We want Canadians working again. At the same time we want them working at jobs of which they are proud. The Government wants to have Canadians contributing to the welfare of the state as well as to themselves. We want Canadians to take home some self-esteem along with their pay cheques.

Economic security cannot be achieved overnight. It is unreasonable to expect an immediately perfect future when we are stricken with such an imperfect history. The fiscal mess facing us now will be addressed with courage and tenacity by the Government in tandem with the people it represents.

We have been quoted in the past as saying that the cupboard is bare. If the present trend was allowed to continue, we would have to go out and sell the cupboard as well. Presently this is not the case and it will not be the case so long as the people of Canada have confidence in their Government's policies and initiatives. From the outset the Progressive Conservative Party pledged to stop the bleeding. With this done we are preparing for the transfusion.

Indeed cuts have been made, but let us remember that cuts were required. Also let us remember that the cuts were made in fairness to all. Every proposal made by the Government in the Speech from the Throne and in the economic statement was submitted with the people of Canada at the forefront. We believe government must be made more understandable, more accessible and more sensitive to the people.

To illustrate this, the Government is reworking the taxation system to make it simpler and fairer. The rights of taxpayers, which have been thrown to the wind for many years, will now be protected. We will table legislation to ensure that no taxpayer will pay taxes in dispute prior to the conclusion of an impartial hearing. We will remove the taxation biases against small businesses to enable them to grow and prosper with less government interference.

We believe small business is the route to solving the unemployment problem in Canada. Small businesses should be allowed enough breathing room to become medium-sized businesses, thereby tapping into the ranks of the unemployed for workers. That snowball effect is yet another reason the United States has a lower rate of unemployment than our own.

Canadian women will be pleased in that no previous Throne Speech dealt so specifically with their concerns. The Government is fully cognizant of the need for economic equality for women. We intend to increase our own efforts toward hiring more women within the federal Government. We will also form a parliamentary task force to help the Government seek consensus on the future of child care in Canada.

Special attention will also be afforded to ensure that spousal allowances for widows and widowers are increased from the ages of 60 to 64, where they no longer qualify now. Also mentioned in the Throne Speech was more financial assistance to our war veterans. We certainly know they deserve this. Improvements on many social programs are planned for the future. I submit those proposals are the fruits of a government which genuinely cares about its people.