

Contract for Airport Taxi Service

and non-negligent manslaughter as released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its annual Uniform Crime Reports.

This brings to mind the argument of the hon. member for Chapleau and the hon. member for Red Deer that the government in bringing this bill before parliament is wasting valuable time. Of course this bill represents a certain waste of parliamentary time but we hope that it will not take too long. We hope that some kind of decision may soon be reached.

There is an enormous waste in our society because of the dubious state of the present law with regard to capital punishment. Let me illustrate what I mean. Every year the courts hand down far more death sentences than the prisons carry out, and this has been alluded to by several speakers. In the current decade the gap has grown to truly disturbing proportions not only in Canada but everywhere where the penalty continues to remain in force. For example, in the United States in 1966, 113 persons were sentenced to death. At the end of 1966 no less than 405 persons in custody were under sentence of death. The total number of persons under sentence of death has steadily mounted.

Of considerable sociological and penological significance is the fact that over this period about which I speak the median time endured by those under sentence of death has stretched from roughly 17 months to nearly four years. As President Johnson's commission put it:

All the members of the commission agree that the present situation in the administration of the death penalty in many states is intolerable—

The conclusion is reached that there is nothing in sight, short of outright abolition itself, which promises to relieve the expensive and interminable process of appellate litigation.

Mr. Alkenbrack: What about Canada?

Mr. Matheson: Canada's position was well illustrated in the white paper on capital punishment which was produced by Hon. Guy Favreau, the former minister of justice, in June, 1965. The cases are listed and numbered from 1 to 85, and I think case No. 68 represents the last execution in Canada. That was a 29-year old man who had killed a policeman and was executed for that crime on December 6, 1962.

[Mr. Matheson.]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It being six o'clock it is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment tonight are as follows: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), Public Service—legislation to increase pensions of retired civil servants; the hon. member for Renfrew North (Mr. Hopkins), National Defence—Ontario regulations respecting voting by military personnel; the hon. member for Hastings South (Mr. Grills), Old Age Security—request that means test be eliminated.

• (6:00 p.m.)

It being six o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions (papers), private bills, public bills.

TRANSPORTATION

CONTRACT FOR TAXI SERVICE,
OTTAWA STATION

The house resumed, from Thursday, June 22, consideration of the motion of Mr. Cowan:

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of any contract entered into concerning taxi service to and from the Ottawa railway station, since January 1, 1966.

Mr. Speaker: Is the house ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member for York-Humber speaks now he will close the debate.

Mr. Ralph Cowan (York-Humber): Mr. Speaker, with regard to this motion for the production of papers I must admit that I was under the impression that another speaker from Montreal was intending to rise, but if he is not in Ottawa today that is his concern. I have only one comment to make, having spoken at length on the introduction of the motion. As you will note, sir, the motion calls for an order of the house to issue "for a copy of any contract entered into concerning taxi service to and from the Ottawa railway station, since January 1, 1966," and you tell me I will close the debate by speaking now.