

*Criminal Code*

paragraph (b), and some of us are being asked to vote on contradictory matters might it not behove Your Honour, by virtue of the standing orders, to divide the resolution? This occurred two years ago, I believe, at the time of the debate on the Canadian flag and even before the debate started, the member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) had made observations. The chair decided later on, even before the debate started, to divide the proposed resolution.

**Mr. Speaker:** I shall be pleased to consider the suggestion, but I must say to the hon. member that, at first sight, it seems to me circumstances are now totally different from those he alluded to.

I expect the hon. member has based his proposal on the stipulations of citation 200, paragraph (4) of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, which states:

A motion which contains two or more distinct propositions may be divided so that the sense of the house may be taken on each separately.

As I have just said, at first sight, there does not seem to be separate propositions, but only different interpretations of the same proposition.

At any rate, I shall be pleased to look into the hon. member's suggestion, at the first opportunity.

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Speaker, can we conclude, that you will take this into consideration and give a ruling later?

**Mr. Speaker:** I must say to the hon. member that I have almost made up my mind on a ruling, but that I shall nevertheless study the suggestion he has just made.

[*English*]

**Mr. Terence Nugent (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, I think I should say a word with regard to the interjections made by hon. gentlemen who spoke to the point of order. I cannot see any difficulty in the manner in which the resolution is before the house. I do not believe the separate sections are contradictory, but rather that they are complementary. It is, to all intents and purposes, one resolution which would carry out one thought if voted upon as it is.

I should like to commence my remarks in this debate, Mr. Speaker, by thanking my co-sponsors on this motion, the hon. members for Kootenay East (Mr. Byrne); York-Scarborough (Mr. Stanbury) and Danforth (Mr. Scott) for their co-operation in bringing

[Mr. Grégoire.]

about this resolution as a means of having the debate. I should like to go further than calling it co-operation, sir, because it is indeed generosity. I feel those three hon. members have shown a particularly selfless interest in bringing this debate before the house.

● (4:10 p.m.)

They had all sponsored bills on the order paper. I am sure that each one of them was anxious to have the honour that I now have of introducing this subject, and I know that each one has a very valuable contribution to make toward the debate. I, sir, have the honour of speaking first only because of the generosity of the other three members who allowed a draw to be held, which I won. Therefore I have the privilege of speaking on my own behalf first.

I think I would speak for every member of the house too when I express satisfaction that the government is making available these three days for the consideration of this problem. It is a problem that has been before the house on previous occasions. It is one on which many hon. members intend to speak, I know, and the subject has aroused the interest, indeed in some cases the excitement, of people in Canada generally. It is one that has stirred the conscience and the consciousness of every member of this house and is a subject that we as members must deal with.

I think that most of us who were in this house in 1960 will remember that we had a most informative debate on a bill sponsored by the previous member for York-Scarborough, Mr. Frank McGee. Unfortunately that debate did not last long enough to allow the house to come to any conclusion, but many valuable contributions were made which I think had much to do with the subsequent forward step of the government in dividing murder into capital and non-capital murder.

The hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch) has previously introduced in this house a bill to abolish capital punishment. The present Premier of the province of Saskatchewan has also brought this problem before the house on other occasions. There have been many important changes made, I think, as well as much progress in the consideration of the question of sentencing all people found guilty of murder.

I have mentioned in my remarks the co-operation received from my fellow sponsors of this resolution, which is a good introduction to the fact that the resolution is presented to the house as one which we are asking