

their sentiments? Surely we are expected to reflect public opinion, not thwart it.

On this issue especially, I know I am speaking for the vast majority of the people of Hamilton-Wentworth when I worry about the fact that we as a society treat the killers better than we do the victims' relatives; certainly we give them more consideration. I also believe that I am speaking for most of my people when I echo the thoughts of an eight-year-old girl who wrote to the *Toronto Star* on January 24, 1981, as follows:

I am eight years old. I think the OPP, Ontario Provincial Police, should have bullet-proof vests because I want my daddy to stay alive. I think other policemen's children would like their daddies to stay alive too.

That is from Dana Rankin, from Midland, Ontario.

A bullet-proof vest might have saved Duncan McAllesee's life; I do not know. What I do know is that we must face some grim facts. We must discuss those grim facts in committee and decide on those grim facts in a free vote in this House. The world is reeling with blows struck by people who gun down popes and presidents and policemen. We must stop them. That happens to be my own personal view as a parliamentarian. I urge the House to support our resolution to permit all other members of this House of Commons to express their views in a free vote. It is a most difficult issue but one of great importance to a great many Canadians.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence)** Mr. Speaker, having heard the comments of the hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. Scott) regarding his concern for the tragic violence in the world, and his citation of the fact that there have been attempted assassinations on His Holiness the Pope, the President of the United States and others, I want to say that I do not take second place to him in his concern about terrorism and assassination. I recall that it was on the same day as the attempt was made on the life of the Pope that I moved a motion under Standing Order 43 calling for action in the United Nations and for an international conference and others steps to be taken, to try to find ways to cope with the problems of violence and assassination in the world.

I recall, too, that on a previous occasion, last October I believe, I moved a motion in this House condemning the acts of terrorism in France and the violence which brought about the death of a number of people in Paris. They were the innocent victims of an attempt to kill a lot of Jews who were in a synagogue at the time, who were innocent people and who might have been destroyed as well. So I take no second place to anyone in this House in my concern about acts of violence and terrorism.

The hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth asked why we are so concerned about looking after the criminals and not the victims of violence. I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that this House of Commons has indicated concern only about criminals and their well-being. It seems to me that time after time we have expressed our condemnation of any kind of violence and terrorism. If we say that we should be caring about the innocent victims of crime, then I would be the first to support

### *Capital Punishment*

any motion to discuss what we can do for them. It seems to me that if this subject were brought up, it would advance the cause of those who are suffering, and that we could do something worth while for those innocent victims. It would be deserving of a day of debate to see what more we could do for the victims of crime.

I have to ask myself, Mr. Speaker, what the reason is for this debate. What is the motive for bringing this debate about? It is obviously a problem for many people, not just for those of us on this side of the House or in the New Democratic Party. Is it because there is moral authority for it? Is it because moral forces are calling across the nation for some change in our laws about capital punishment?

If I consider the moral authorities, as they are usually described, they are those who are concerned about international terrorism, those who are concerned about concentration camps behind the iron curtain, those who are concerned about the sudden disappearance of people in foreign countries.

I have received in the mail, as has every member of Parliament today, yesterday or in the past week, a plea from Amnesty International not to support this motion. It sent a leaflet which states as follows: "The death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and violates the right to life."

Amnesty International goes on to say that it declares its total and unconditional opposition to the death penalty; that it condemns all executions, in whatever form, committed or condoned by government and that it declares its commitment to work for the universal abolition of the death penalty. That is the studied response of an organization which exists to combat violence and crime, nationally or internationally.

Is this supposed to be some kind of moral crusade? When we look to those we might think give some kind of moral leadership, if it is not Amnesty International, then I have to bring to the attention of all hon. members that the Anglican Church of Canada is opposed to capital punishment; so also is the United Church of Canada; so also is the Canadian Catholic Conference; so also is the Central Conference of American Rabbis; the Presbyterian Church in Canada—

**Mr. Kilgour:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Kilgour) on a point of order.

**Mr. Kilgour:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Would the hon. member for Eglinton-Lawrence (Mr. de Corneille) accept a question?

**Mr. de Corneille:** Perhaps at the end of my remarks, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to list those which are, presumably, the religious institutions of our nation, those who are the leaders and have given careful study and have set up committees to examine the results, theologically, morally or practically, of the subject of capital punishment. I was citing the major churches, and I think I had reached the last in my list. I was