

*Capital Punishment*

I believe an honest, open inquiry would introduce other evidence to demonstrate that, if we are interested in making society more safe, we should look to remedies other than having the state kill people. But as one member of Parliament, I am prepared to take my chances with the facts, and I would hope that all other members who respect Parliament and have faith in their views will do the same, will support this motion and will allow the objective study by Parliament that we propose.

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

**Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, I am privileged today to represent this party in responding to the motion proposed by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) to send the question of the death penalty to a committee. The last time I know of when that happened was when Pontius Pilate did it.

I am very sorry that the Progressive Conservative party was not able to come to terms with what is going on in this country and the world. I am very sorry that the Progressive Conservative party did not see fit to give a day to debating the world's problems. I am very sorry that the Conservative party did not see fit to speak about Canada's problems, to speak about the economy that is going to pieces, to speak about the fact—

**An hon. Member:** Where have you been?

**Mr. Ogle:** —that this government is not standing up to the questions that affect the lives of everyone in this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Ogle:** I am surprised that the party to my right was able to face the fact that what is taking place now is not a question of capital punishment but a question of having old people live a life that is worse than capital punishment. What is happening to the old people in this country because of what the government is doing to them is making them less than human.

I am sorry that the Progressive Conservative party was not able to prepare a motion that would enable us at least to speak about what is happening this summer as it effects the whole North-South question. Rather, they turned around with a direct attack on their leader who had to get up today and, I am sure, humbly stand before this House and the country and say: "The leader of this party is being hanged by his own party."

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

**Mr. Ogle:** The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) stood here and explained to the people of Canada that it is against his conscience to have capital punishment. He has been forced to this by his party, and everybody knows that he has been forced by his party. He has been hanged by his party.

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

**Mr. Ogle:** The Leader of the Opposition is not speaking about a committee, he is speaking about the fact that he can no longer control his party. He is speaking about the fact that he has been hanged and that the Conservatives have decided

that there will be a new leader. That, I feel, is a very distressing thing for Canada. It is capital punishment all right, Mr. Speaker; it is the hanging of the leader of the Progressive Conservative party.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

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

**Mr. Ogle:** At the same time that this is happening to the leader of the Progressive Conservative party, the party on the other side of the House is smugly glad that another day is going by that they do not have to come to terms, face to face, with the problems that are basically affecting every Canadian, the real problems of this country.

**Mr. Corbett:** Tell us why you are going to vote against it.

**Mr. Ogle:** I am going to vote against this proposition this afternoon because we are dealing basically with the principle of life and death. What is being covered up here is that this is a way of sneaking back to the act of killing people. That is what it is about.

**Mr. Siddon:** Speak about abortion, then.

**Mr. Ogle:** I will speak about abortion.

**Mr. Elzinga:** Tell the truth.

**Mr. Ogle:** I have been asked to tell the truth.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) rises on a point of order.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker, I would remind you that we listened quietly and attentively while the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) was speaking.

**An hon. Member:** He told the truth.

**Mr. Knowles:** I submit that the hon. member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ogle) deserves the same courtesy.

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member's point is well taken. The hon. member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ogle).

● (1540)

**Mr. Ogle:** Mr. Speaker, I have been asked to speak the truth. The simple fact that that has been asked of me would indicate that I do not speak the truth. I do not know how to take that in this House of Commons. In a situation like this, I speak the truth.

In the election, I ran on this issue of life and death. I said that if elected I would defend human life from its conception until its natural end. Last November 18 I spoke on the first part of my principle, which is against my party's position, and today I speak on capital punishment, the second part.

**Mr. Clarke:** It is not the debate.