

report of which is dated June 22, 1956. It was claimed that additional administrative problems would arise in penitentiaries if all convicted murderers were imprisoned. This problem was put to Dr. Sellin, who had made a profound study of this subject extending over many years. The report summarized his answers to four of the questions that were put to him by our joint committee at that time. May I say that there has been no challenge to these views. I will read part of the report of that committee which contains the following summary of the discussion. The committee said:

We cannot conclude from your statistics... that capital punishment has no deterrent effect?

Dr. Sellin answered:

No, there is no such conclusion.

You see, sir, at no point has he ever tried to make more of the argument for abolition than a scholar should. Then the committee said:

But can we not conclude that if it has a deterrent effect it must be rather small?

Dr. Sellin said:

I can make no such conclusion, because I can find no answer one way or another in these data.

In other words he said that abolition makes no difference at all. He continued:

It is impossible to draw any inferences from the material that is in my possession, that there is any relationship... between a large number of executions, small number of executions, continuous executions, no executions, and what happens to the murder rates.

Then the committee said:

I think you have already agreed that capital punishment cannot, on the basis of your figures, be exercising an overwhelmingly deterrent effect?

At this point he was able to be conclusive and said "That is correct". The committee then asked:

But you would not like to go any further than that?

To which he replied "No". That is as far as he was prepared to go.

I simply read this report as a foundation for some of the rather convincing material that has been read into the record in the brilliant address of the Solicitor General (Mr. Pennell).

An interesting approach to the problem of murder has developed in England through the studies of Terence Morris and Louis Blom-Cooper in their book "A Calendar of Murder" which covers criminal homicide in England since 1957. This book provides

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thumbnail sketches of every person indicted for murder in England and Wales since 1957 and a brief outline of his crime. I studied it and am grateful for it to that wonderful Canadian humanitarian J. Alex Edmison, Q.C., who has been a student of capital punishment for many years. I only wish I had his gifts and his knowledge and experience to serve this house in this debate. This book demonstrates how dull, depressing and stupid are so many of these homicidal crimes. Laid bare before the reader are the myths which surround the crime of crimes, the predominance of sordid domestic homicide, the high incidence of mental instability and disorder, the unpremeditated nature of almost all killings, the role of the victim in precipitating his own violent end, the comparative rarity of the "sex monster" and the special position of the professional criminal.

I have visited many of our penal institutions and have come to know convicted murderers who, in some instances, have been paroled and in other cases remain lifers in our institutions. It is all a pretty tedious and dull business. There is nothing very romantic about murder. It might be helpful for Canadians generally to look at the government white paper on capital punishment and study the cases, starting from February 14, 1957 and try to understand the type of people who have been executed or who have had their sentences commuted.

For instance in one case we see the following note under the heading of mental condition: "not psychotic but possibility of D.T.'s". In another case we find "below average mentality", and in another one "psychopathic personality with paranoid manifestations of a neurotic order". The last one relates to a man who was executed in 1960. Another man executed in 1961 for having killed his girl friend with a hunting knife was described as having "below normal intelligence". On December 4, 1962 the governor in council decided to execute a man for killing with a revolver and knife. He was described as being of "low intelligence".

The fact is that these are not the kind of people who can be regarded as romantic adventurers or people who need some kind of a lesson. When you look deeply into their lives, as I have with some who are lifers in penal institutions, you find how pathetic, drab and anti-social have been the environments which helped reduce them to these crimes.

An issue has been made, and of course we expected it, of the lack of logic of the bill in