

SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley



Pick Your Execution

In its wisdom, the Canadian Parliament has decided that the death penalty should not be abolished, that capital punishment should be preserved.

I agree. Completely. In my youthful, idealistic days, I had a crazy idea that the cold, deliberate taking of a human life by a civilized society was wrong.

But I'm becoming blunted in a world where young men who never did a nasty thing are killed daily, and women and children are bombed and burned daily, all in the name of peace.

In the face of this, who can worry about a handful of hoodlums about to be hanged? If there's the odd one who wasn't guilty, tough! There are a lot of other non-guilty people dying these days, and always have been. Without a trial and jury.

What I can't understand is the Canadian Parliament's lack of follow-through. It's pretty disappointing, to one who has upheld this nation against its petty attackers for years.

But we get this again and again. Take the Gerda Munsinger case. A few red faces, a few TV tears, and it's all over.

In the capital punishment case, our Canadian politicians had a chance to set the world on fire. Did they do it? Not they. They cast their votes and went home for the holidays.

Not an iota of imagination in the whole hang-dog group. This was their chance to give Canada a penal system unequalled in the world.

I don't, for one instant, think all those chaps who voted "Nay" are in favor of hanging. It's a pretty crude business. After all, some times the rope is too loose, or the head is too loose, and the girl reporters puke. I think something could be done about this. Paper bags, perhaps.

Not a single M.P. suggested another way of dealing with

murderers. There are dozens. But I believe the most sporting way, for the culprits, and the least lacerating way, for a touchy society, would be to throw all the varieties of execution into a hat and let the prospective departude take his pick. It would add a certain "Jenny-Say-Kwoy" to the whole thing, which, in these troubled days, might keep Quebec within the fold.

Throw them all in a hat. There's something for everybody. For the softies: slashing of wrists and gentle expiration in the bathtub, or an overdose of sleeping pills. For the hards: electrocution; gas; diving into an empty (concrete-bottom) swimming pool; bullet through the head.

For the exotic: the guillotine; the executioner's axe; impalement on a sharp stake; being torn to pieces by four wild horses; being lowered into a pit of vipers.

Of course, you have to take what you get. Just because you're a flamboyant type doesn't mean that you're going to pick the ballot saying you'll be burned at the stake. You might get the one saying death by strangling. Tough.

But at least there'd be some imagination in the whole thing. And this could be spread through the whole penal system. Shoplifters could be deported to the U.S. Kids who stole apples would be branded on the forehead with T for Thief.

Income-tax-cheaters and people who were tricky with their expense accounts would be sent to the tundra with four dollars, a fishing line, and all three of their wives. This would fill up our great northern spaces smartly.

There are great possibilities. Pass along your suggestions, and I'll pass them along to Parliament.

Mrs. Bill Woodrow who leaves with her husband for a new home in Deep River, was feted at a party given in Mrs. Edgar Ray's home when Mrs. Alf Bull was co-hostess and Mrs. David Regelsford assisted. Mrs. Bern Jacomb presented golf shoes and a cheque for other golf equipment in token of the group's good wishes.

ROSSPORT COMMITTEE SPONSORS NEW DERBY

Due to popular demand the committee of the Rossport Derby have decided to run their 29th annual Fish Derby. However, this year the event will run for a month - from July 3rd to July 31st inclusive. Weekly prizes amounting to approximately \$150 will be given and a grand prize will be awarded at the end of the month.

Lake trout only will be eligible and contestants must leave from Rossport Harbor. Fish will be weighed daily by Chas. Todesco at Rossport Trading Company not later than 8 p.m. and one entry only will be allowed on each ticket.

By running the Derby this way it is hoped that shift workers will be able to take part in it when it best suits them.

The fish are biting at Rossport and it is not unusual to get trout right off the dock now.

The members of the Union Church Ladies Auxiliary held a surprise party for Mrs. Russell Gerow Thursday evening at her home. Mrs. Gerow will reside in Fort William. The president, Mrs. Middleton, presented a gift to Mrs. Gerow and refreshments were served.

Mrs. Edith Ibey accompanied Mr. and Mrs. A. Bull to Kenora.

Mrs. Annie Molinski returned to Bousejour, Manitoba.

Mrs. P. J. Sully is home from hospital in Port Arthur.

Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Hedges of San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. Z. M. Tisdale of Portland Oregon and Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Hill of Vermont, Mr. and Mrs. E. Bonalev of Detroit, Dr. and Mrs. Ken Dettefsen of Red Wing, Minn., and Mr. and Mrs. H. Swindells of New Haven, Conn., are among those holidaying in these party.

Miss Rachel Todesco and her brother Camillo of Port Arthur visited Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Todesco on the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Sinclair and family of Port Arthur were guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. Ibey this week.

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Mullens of Halifax are here on vacation.

W. Angrove was a business visitor to Fort William.

Mrs. Ken MacDonald of Ft. William is visiting her son Frank and family in Schreiber.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gerow have the former's neice and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. P. Williamson and son, of Davenport, Iowa, visiting them.

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Gilmore and daughter, of St. Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Gilmore of Sarnia are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Pearson.

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