

Ottawa Report

Capital punishment issue

Last week, Solicitor General Warren Allmand announced that the government would soon introduce legislation to abolish capital punishment. When asked whether the bill would stand apart from any other matter contained in the Criminal Code, the Minister stated there would be a separate bill dealing with capital punishment and the measures to replace capital punishment.

Under current legislation enacted in 1968, the death penalty is provided for convicted killers of on-duty policemen and prison guards. Since that date, 33 policemen and two prison guards have been slain. Their murderers are serving sentences averaging 13½ years. The law in effect has not been upheld. In fact, there have been no hangings in Canada since 1962.

Mr. Allmand has stated that there will be a free vote on the proposed legislation. This would supposedly allow all Members of Parliament to vote according to their own conscience rather than along party lines. In practice, however, every member of the cabinet is expected to vote in favor of the government's bill. This was demonstrated in the Twenty-ninth Parliament (during a free vote) when the cabinet voted unanimously in favor of the government's proposal to extend the existing law to 1977 without amendment.

According to a survey taken just over four months ago, only 17.1 percent of the residents of York-Simcoe favor the abolition of all capital punishment. The balance - 82.9 percent - favor the retention of the death penalty, with 44.5 percent of the respondents stating they wished the existing law upheld and the cabinet's right to commute death sentences limited, while 38.4 percent called for capital punishment for all convicted murderers.

On this issue I believe Members of Parliament should seek the views of their constituents and reflect those views in the debates and votes that will be held on the government's bill to abolish capital punishment in Canada.

As a retentionist, it is doubtful that I will be able to vote for Mr. Allmand's abolitionist bill. There is still room for the death penalty in our criminal system.

Constituents have responded to my questionnaire on the issue of immigration policy as follows:

On the question, "Which type of immigration policy would you like to see in effect in Canada?"

- 27.8 percent preferred an open-door policy with an annual quota... in any given year based on the immigration needs of Canada.

- 27.3 percent preferred a quota system based on occupational opportunities.

- 16.5 percent asked for a closed-door policy.
- 15.3 percent asked for a quota system based on racial origin.

- 13.1 percent asked for an open-door policy.

- On the question, "Do you feel that preference should be given to potential immigrants whose mother tongue is one of the official languages?"

- 46.4 percent said English.

- 8.6 percent said French.

- 45.0 percent had no preference to language.

Other results showed that 84.9 percent felt preference should be

given to potential immigrants who have relatives who are Canadian citizens, over those whose relatives are not Canadian citizens.

72.3 percent felt that immigrants should settle for a number of years in an area specified by the government, rather than be allowed to settle where they want.

71.8 percent thought that where there is a shortage of qualified personnel in specific occupations, the government should try to admit only immigrants who possess the needed skills, while 23.2 percent said the government should issue temporary work permits for the time such workers are needed.

Results of the questionnaire on the issue of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation were as follows:

- 52 percent were generally satisfied with

CBC programmes; 43 percent were not. The balance had no opinion.

- 33 percent would agree to additional tax funding to compensate for loss of revenue through discontinuing advertising on CBC stations; 62 percent would not agree. The balance had no opinion.

- 22 percent felt the CBC was being administered efficiently; 48 percent felt it was not; while 30 percent had no opinion.

Results of the questions on labor relations and the Olympics were given in earlier columns.



Folk singer and guitarist Richard Keeland was the featured performer Friday night for the second Winter Night Concert series at Latcham Hall. A full house enjoyed the show. Mr. Keeland is a member of the Perth County Conspiracy.

School board decision

Disband committee

YORK CTY — Overturning a recommendation from its communications committee, York Region public school trustees last week disbanded the committee.

She agreed however that the committee, which consisted of members of the public, trustees and students, should exist only with full support of the board.

While the committee's mandate carried it only until the end of 1975, members recommended establishment of a revamped committee for 1976.

As envisioned by the committee, its duties would include stimulating action between local trustees and their community, stimulating action between the entire board and the region of York, aiding in and supporting such interaction and working with the board's communications officer.

When originally established, the board restricted the committee to examination of policies dealing with communications.

In a recommendation accepted by trustees last week, the board's chairman's committee cited no need for an annual review of communications policies and favored disbanding the communications committee.

"This is the most interest this board has shown in the communications committee for a long time," said King trustee Margaret Coburn.

"I would in the future like to see alternatives," she explained. "I'm just a little put off it was steered this way."

Meetings aren't for dialogue Sim says

YORK CTY — Encouraging attendance at board meetings is no way of communicating with parents, Don Sim, a former chairman of the York Region public school board, said here last week.

In a report to trustees, the board's communications committee recommended a policy change that would read, "One of the best ways of communicating with parents is attendance at board meetings."

As trustees voted to reject the recommendation, Mr. Sim noted the proposal represented "one of the worst ways" of communicating with parents.

"The simple fact of the matter is if 100 parents show up, the (board) room is full," the Markham trustee said. Mr. Sim also noted that issues discussed at board meetings seldom involve the individual student or day-to-day issues that most concern parents.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1976
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

PROOF OF AGE IS REQUIRED

For further information you may contact any of the principals of the listed schools:

Aurora Heights	J. McLachlan	727-6902
Ballantrae	T. Woodger	640-2323 (Zenith 94620)
Devins Drive	W. Hazell	727-2022
Dickson Hill	R. Guyatt	640-2891
George Street	B. Paradine	727-4921
Kettleby	G. McKelvey	727-9852
Eva L. Dennis (Patton & Kinghorn)	D. Bush	833-6622
Lake Wilcox	R. Anderson	773-5381
Nobleton Junior	J. Haskall	859-0831
Oak Ridges	E. Burlew	773-5572
Orchard Park	K. Sutherland	640-3552
Regency Acres	D. Duchesne	727-9811
Schomberg	J. Jeffers	929-7711
Summitview	L. Boudway	640-1102
Wells Street	L. Dobson	727-4722
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CONCORD Salvation Army House of Concord 8151 Dufferin St. Tues. 7:30 p.m.	THORNHILL Christ the King Lutheran Church Bayhorn & Royal Orchard Wed. 7:30 p.m.
MARKHAM Grace Church 19 Parkway Ave. Mon. 7:30 p.m.	UXBRIDGE Salvation Army Auditorium 114 Brock St. W. Wed. 7:30 p.m.
NORTH TORONTO Bohurst & Lawrence Ashbury & West United Church 3180 Bohurst (N. of Lawrence) Wed. 7:30 p.m.	WILLOWDALE Knox United Church Christian Educ. Bldg. Midland North of Sheppard Thurs. 1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
PORT PERRY Hastings Mall 320 Queen St. Mon. 7:30 p.m.	WILLOWDALE St. Gabriel's Centre 672 Sheppard Ave. E. Thurs. 7:30 p.m.
	WILLOWDALE Fairview Mall Fri. 9:30 a.m.

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