

British Stop Death Penalty; Effect Viewed by Faculty

By Mary Lu McDonald
Emerald Staff Writer

Recent voting by Great Britain's House of Commons to abolish capital punishment in England was viewed by a group of University law and sociology teachers surveyed as having no repercussions in United States toward a similar nationwide move.

The House of Commons vote for abolishment on Feb. 16 directed Prime Minister Eden's government to introduce legislation which must be approved by the House of Lords before becoming law.

Eden's government, indicating a hope that the deputies will not approve such legislation, announced it is also preparing a statement showing the consequences such action would have in England.

Bispo's Views

No death penalties will be carried out in England until this legislation is introduced.

University of Oregon's Herbert Bispo, assistant professor of sociology, said he is sympathetic with Britain's House of Commons in this action, but pointed out that the United States is in a mood of conservatism and there is little likelihood of any similar action occurring here.

Bispo cited the following three main reasons as being the chief arguments against capital punishment:

- 1) Research evidence does not support the death penalty as being a deterrent
- 2) Errors of justice can be made
- 3) Humanitarian factors are involved.

"Unjustified Penalty,"

Says Poole

Lane District Judge Kenneth A. Poole, special lecturer here, said that recent FBI statistics indicated Oregon has one of the largest percentages of violence crimes.

"I do not think the death penalty should be abolished in Oregon under the present system," said Judge Poole. "There will always be that rare case of the psychopath, perhaps one in fifty, where the penalty would not be justified."

Poole said, however, he did not think the death penalty was a deterrent factor for violence crimes.

Oregon has the gas chamber as its only means of capital punishment.

Proposal for Oregon

Judge Poole said that should the maximum penalty be a life sentence without parole, instead of the death penalty, pressure would be too great for an inmate in our institutions.

Rehabilitation centers should replace jails, the judge said. Oregon should have two "workhouses" or rehabilitation centers, one located in the northern part of the state and one located in the southern part.

Everyone Busy

According to Poole, under this system everyone would have something to do, such as road construction, building and maintaining fire trails, or manufacturing articles for use within or without the institutions.

The judge pointed out that chief opposition to this plan comes from labor unions and the taxpayer.

Labor unions are against any commodity being manufactured in prisons, even though it would be for use inside the prison, said Poole.

Today crimes punishable for death under federal law in the United States are treason, murder, kidnapping and rape.

Six states have abolished cap-

ital punishment. First was Michigan in 1847. Others are Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Wisconsin.

Utah offers a choice of death—shooting or hanging. Twenty-two states execute by electrocution, eleven states and Alaska use the gallows, and eight states execute by the gas chambers.

In Europe, Portugal abolished capital punishment in 1886, Sweden in 1910 and Switzerland in 1943.

England at one time punished by death all felonies except larceny and mayhem.

History of Death Penalty

That capital punishment is almost as old as man, is indicated by Biblical mentions of stoning, and that Babylonians were executed by drowning.

Through the centuries, persons have been executed by being dragged behind animals, buried alive and pulled apart on racks.

Romans, for the murder of a kingman, would sew the murderer into a sack with a dog, a cock, and a viper and cast him into the sea.

Jean of Arc was burned at the stake, although the official French method of execution has been the guillotine.

In Spain it was the garotte, an iron collar that strangled the victim.

England Tries Again

Culminating a 94-year-old fight for capital punishment's abolishment, England's House of Commons is again trying to push legislation past the House of Lords.

A resolution similar to the one recently voted for was the 1948 amendment to a criminal justice bill. This amendment which advocated a five-year experimental

period of abolishment was killed by the House of Lords.

Latest developments in Britain regarding this legislation is the memorandum sent by the Prison Officials association to the government.

Their note suggested, for their own safety, that hanging be considered for "any murderer who kills again during the jail sentence."

Special pensions were asked for relatives of prison officers "who might be killed as a result of an attack by a prisoner."

More May Attend Model UN at OSC

More delegates have been allotted to the University for the Model United Nations, planned this spring at Oregon State college.

As a result students not yet planning to attend can still become members of the delegation, according to E. P. McKean-Smith, president of the International Relations committee.

Students who wish to participate are urged to attend an IRC meeting today at 4 p.m. in Commonwealth 332.

IRC has been holding regular meetings every Monday and Wednesday to orient delegates on United Nations structure and problems.

Anyone who cannot attend the meeting today but who is interested in the United Nations convention is asked to leave his name at the political science department.

Thursday Roundtable Topic is Communism

"Can Communism Attain Victory Without War?" is the topic of a roundtable which will be held Thursday at 4 p.m. in the men's lounge of Gerlinger hall.

Panel members will be Jan Aarts, Ki Jihkan, Naushaba Husain and Helen Knight. Mrs. Jack Culbertson will moderate.

The YMCA and YWCA, sponsoring organizations, invite all interested students.

Under the Weather

Included on the Tuesday infirmary list were Karla Kuhnley, Geraldine Scarborough, Laura Rae Engblom, Laura Mae Johnson, Mary Anne Everett, Barbara Ann Moody, Mary Schulze, Gloria Jenkins, Yvonne Miller, Donald Walman, Glenn Goff, Herbert Sylwester, John Colvin and Clarence Curnow.

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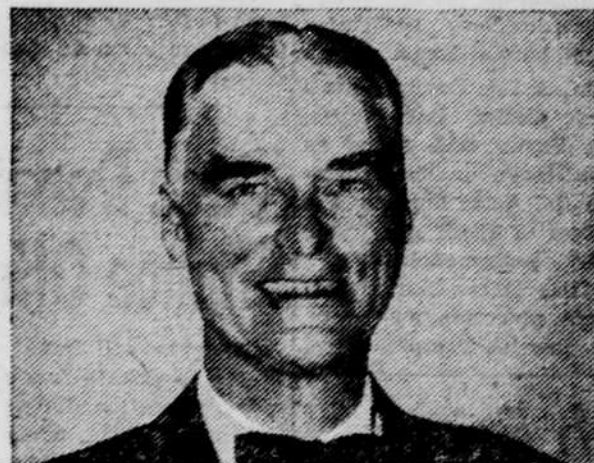
Petitions are due today at 5 p.m. for the speakers, solicitations, publicity, promotion, movies, fire-sides, and auction committees of the WUS. Regular ASUO petition blanks are to be used and should be turned into the YMCA office.

Today's Staff

Makeup editor: Carole Beech
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In March Reader's Digest don't miss:

HOW TO CONQUER FRUSTRATION. When blocked from what we seek to do, we feel pent-up and thwarted. Result: most of us work off our feelings by lashing out at someone else. Here's how—if you are aware of what frustration is doing to you—you can avoid many a needless clash.

BEST ADVICE I EVER HAD. A street-corner phrenologist "read" the bumps on the boy's head, spoke 6 words. British Labour Party leader Herbert Morrison tells how this advice spurred him on his career.

GUIDED MISSILES: KEY TO PEACE? Terrifying weapons we are building in hopes of preventing war.

HOW MUCH DEBT CAN YOU AFFORD? Worried over your instalment buying? Feel you owe too much? Here's a simple way to measure how much debt you can afford on your income—and suggestions on how to avoid getting in too deep.

HOW YOUR NOSE KNOWS. Scientific facts about our amazing and mysterious sense of smell.

AMERICAN MEN ARE LOUSY FATHERS. Famed author Philip Wylie tells why a child needs his father's companionship; and why a dad's greatest rewards lie in sharing himself with his kids.

THE MAN WHO SAVED A PRESIDENT. The impeachment of Andrew Johnson depended on the vote of one man: Edmund Ross. Senator John F. Kennedy tells how Ross sacrificed wealth, career to vote as his conscience bade: "Not guilty."

WHY DO DOCTORS SMOKE? A doctor asks, "How can medical men condone the use of tobacco, knowing its harmful effects?"

COLLEGE WITH A BUILT-IN POCKETBOOK. Story of Southern Missionary's work-study plan where students earn their tuition, get practical experience—and make a profit for the college.

DOOMED PRISONERS OF DIFFERDANCE. How a Nazi-guard risked his life to save 18 of his captives from death—a drama whose final scene was enacted just last spring.

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