

Memorandum for the Cabinet by the Hon.  
Minister of Justice

The following Question was put to me by the Hon. Dr. Micallef Stafrace, at the Sitting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 24th February, 1964:-

"Jekk mill-ahhar Diskors mit-Fron 'l hawn saritx xi haga konkreta biex tigi studjata l-kwestjoni tal-piena kapitali?"

and I have replied as follows:-

"Il-kwistjoni qiegħda tigi studjata bl-attenzjoni li timmerita u sar progress fix-xogħol preparatorju ta' dan l-istudju. Pero' hija tant kompleksa u delikata li wieħed irid jikkonsidraha aktar profondament qabel jasal għad-deċizjoni li tkun definitiva."

After replying to the above question I added that before further consideration be given to this matter it would be advisable to test the feeling of the House.

I am under the impression that the 1921 electoral manifesto of the Nationalist Party - which as far as I am aware was a fusion between the Panzavecchian Party and the Democratic Nationalists, had the following clause in favour of the abolition of Capital Punishment:

"The penal code be reformed so that above all Capital Punishment be abolished or restricted; and the penitentiary system be reorganized in such manner that it will be directed towards the re-education of the delinquent, especially if he is a minor, than towards punishment which on many occasions is inefficacious and damaging."

Hon. Members are invited to consider which of the following motions should be adopted -

- 1) Illi hija l-opinjoni tal-Kamra illi l-piena kapitali għandha tigi abolita.

2)/....

# L-Arkivji Nazzjonali ta' Malta

- 2) Illi hija l-opinjoni tal-Kamra illi l-piena kapitali ghandha tigi abolita barra min kasijiet speċifikati u li f'dan il-kaz jigi nominat select committee biex jistudja u jirrelata f'liema kazi ghandha tigi tollerata.
- 3) Illi hija l-opinjoni tal-Kamra li ghandu jigi nominat select committee biex jistudja u jirrelata jekk il-piena kapitali ghandiex tigi abolita għall-kollox jew in parti u f'dan l-aħhar kaz f'liema kazijiet ghandha tigi ritenuta.
- 4) Illi hija l-opinjoni tal-Kamra illi jigi nominat select committee biex jgħati raccomandazzjonijiet rigward tibdil fil-piena kapitali.

12th March, 1964.