

THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS ON HANGING - NOTTINGHAM 20 JULY 1979

Mrs. Thatcher: Each Member of Parliament is responsible to those whom he represents and he has to account for the way he voted. So its up to each one of them - as you know I happen to hold very strongly that the death penalty would be a deterrent to certain types of murders and I think it would help the police in carrying out their duty. And thats why I have always voted for it and I shall continue to do so. Others have equal determination to support the police but they believe that a life sentence is just as much a deterrent. I don't. I think that those who go out prepared to pass sentence of death on other people without any court, just by taking their own lives, should be liable by process of the court to have a sentence of death passed on them. But that's not the view other people take.

Interviewer: Do you see the possibility of a referendum?

Mrs. Thatcher: No I don't. I think we know what the result of a referendum would be. I don't think that is in doubt. But you know even referenda are advisory and it would still have to come back to the House of Commons.