

*Criminal Code*

since the last elections, Bill C-150, has benefited from a wide publicity: radio, television and newspapers alike have taken up the matter. Contrarily to many bills which are often passed without the public bothering about them, this bill is popular in every class of society. We get letters from mothers and fathers who convey to us their ideas on the subject or they use the "Letters to the Editor" or other columns which are available to them in the newspapers.

I have received quite a lot of mail since this bill was introduced in the house. In addition to the personal letters which were sent to me I have a brief from the Association des bureaux médicaux des hôpitaux de la province de Québec and also a brief from the Alliance pour la vie, located in Hull, P. Q.

We have also received recommendations, and blueprints from the Association des Parents Catholiques du Québec, from the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Montreal, from the Fédération des Sociétés Saint-Jean-Baptiste du Québec, from the Foyers Notre-Dame and from les Équipes Notre-Dame, from the Chapitre métropolitain des Chevaliers de Colomb, from the Chevaliers de Champlain, from the Dames Hélène de Champlain, from the Association des Puéricultrices de la Province de Québec, from the Association des Infirmières Catholiques du Canada, from the Action Nationale, from the Fraternité des Policiers de Montréal, from the Fédération des Fraternités de policiers de la Province de Québec.

Mr. Speaker, among all these briefs, all these letters, there is just one single letter in favour of the bill as proposed; if I had to speak on behalf of all those who oppose the bill as presented, I guess it would take me at least 40 hours.

Like the previous speakers, I shall be satisfied with the forty minutes at my disposal, but I shall simply point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that forty minutes for an area of 50,000 voters do not amount even to a minute for a thousand voters and that forty minutes to deal with a bill that contains more than 100 clauses is not all that much.

So I made a choice, and the first subject that I want to talk of is the one that proposes to modify the Criminal Code so as to authorize the federal and provincial governments to organize and to manage a lottery, and to deliver permits to charitable or religious organizations to agricultural fairs or exhibitions or a private citizen so that they can organize and manage a lottery.

Mr. Speaker, we can support this bill while opposing lotteries. I think our present system is useful because a few persons only have dared to use it.

And yet we remember the prohibition era in the province of Quebec, when the few innkeepers who engaged in bootlegging became millionaires. Today, because of the distribution right and left of licences or permits, the innkeepers realize that there are too many of them and that the majority of them have financial troubles.

By legalizing lotteries and by generalizing these systems, their "beneficial" effects are cancelled, if I may use that expression.

Today, the city of Montreal's voluntary tax can be advantageous. But on the day when any one, religious associations, the federal government, the provincial governments, the cities, the municipalities, agricultural exhibitions, individuals, can do the same, in short, the day when there are as many fishermen as there is fish, it will then be realized that this clause of the bill left only disillusion and numerous victims among low income people who believed, at one time, that they had found the solution to their problems.

There is another section of the bill that does not leave any room for doubt as regards its efficiency. It is section 16. The purpose of that amending section of the law would be to oblige the driver of a motor vehicle to submit to a breathalyzer test whenever it is required by a peace officer who believes, on reasonable and probable grounds, that that person's ability to drive is impaired.

Mr. Speaker, such a procedure will facilitate the work of the peace officers and will also protect citizens against abuses or errors on the part of certain peace officers. We have all seen at one time or another automobile accidents, where policemen failed to do their duty because they were dealing with influential people. It may happen however that small folk become the victims of peace officers. I am thinking about a Quebec City carpenter, head of a family, who after spending the evening at the home of friends, where he had had a few drinks went back home in his car. Now, he saw a policeman on a street corner.

● (4:40 p.m.)

Shaken by the publicity, and in good faith knowing that one must never drive whenever one's ability is impaired by alcohol instead of asking a friend to drive him home, he asked the first policeman he saw to do so. In order to help him, the peace officer accepted to take