

Criminal Code

amount. It is a disguised tax used by governments who do not take their responsibilities.

But what is even more serious is that the problem always remains there, dormant, inherent to our complex situations, to our financial problems, and nobody has enough courage to try to solve them.

• (9:50 p.m.)

Thirdly, a lottery is, in my humble opinion, merely an essential source of additional income for governments, whether they admit it or not, because they cannot increase their revenues without levying more taxes.

However, I cannot help, but say that governments are blind because they want to.

Mr. Speaker, if the government was willing to consider our solution, that is to resort to the Bank of Canada to finance the building of hospitals and schools, of roads and bridges, etc. it would then really tackle the problem.

On the other hand, the philosophy that has led to the establishment of this national bank was to serve the Canadians. Moreover, this is provided for in the British North America Act.

However, the governments that have succeeded one another since confederation have always been and are more and more in the pay of high finance. In fact, municipal, federal and provincial governments are in the pay of high finance and make annual pilgrimages abroad in order to borrow the amounts necessary to run the country. However, here in Canada, they want to set up a lottery system.

How stupid and illogical is our present fiscal and monetary system since it prompts us to take measures which are not bad in themselves but which compel us to acknowledge that we are powerless and blind in front of a problem whose solution is becoming more and more imperative.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the motion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, designed to make illegal the establishment of a lottery administered by the Canadian government or by the provinces. And why, Mr. Speaker? Because this would be to negate the real problem, to lie to the country, in short we would be deluding ourselves, we would be deceiving the population, we would be dodging our basic responsibilities which are primarily to manage public funds.

Mr. Speaker, if we favour a national lottery with a view to allowing people to co-operate in financing the public domain, we have only to abolish all federal taxes and ask those who

[Mr. Fortin.]

are willing to participate in the federal government barbotte by sending them their contributions. Then those who do not want to pay taxes will be forced to pay them, and those who are crazy enough to pay taxes will be allowed to do so.

Mr. Speaker, to my mind that is illogical. The government wants to levy new taxes, but there is not a single minister who has the courage to do so. When they do, they put out a book of about 500 pages; they hide the tax in the middle page and make us swallow it as if it were a pill.

Mr. Speaker, whether our taxes are called social progress taxes, social recession taxes, or surtaxes, we go around in circles, because the solution has not been found. The Canadian people are allowed to take part in national barbottes which, at best, reduce the purchasing power of the taxpayers at a time when they need more and more of it.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it ten o'clock?

[English]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been made.

CANADA COUNCIL—GRANT TO STANLEY GRAY —REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon Souris): Mr. Speaker, I propose tonight to raise the question in a very formal and deliberate way of the award of a Canada Council grant of \$5,500 to one Professor Stanley Gray. I raise this matter quite deliberately and with the full knowledge that the government, the minister, pundits and others may seek to misrepresent what I am saying and accuse me of interference with or opposition to the independent operation of the Canada Council. I am prepared to run the risk of that misrepresentation because I feel very sincerely that this matter involves two vital questions which must be considered in this parliament, as they are being considered in this country. My mail would indicate, as I am sure the mail of other hon. members does, that this question is being very seriously and earnestly considered by a great number of people in Canada. First, there is the legitimate question of the priorities of public funds and whether these limited funds should be spent to assist a person who is dedicated to the encouragement of