

Criminal Code

should not be surprised if people then go out and increase their consumption accordingly.

I am not a prohibitionist. It is not feasible to prohibit alcohol. That experiment has been tried, and we know its result was an increase in organized crime. However, I am a prohibitionist in regard to advertising. We certainly should not allow the encouragement of consumption. Legal consumption, yes, but let us not encourage it. Of course free booze encourages consumption. We have all kinds of institutions which provide free booze. That is a policy that ought to be considered.

Our society sends out mixed messages—social drinking is all right. We serve booze on Parliament Hill and we let people drive after the fact. On the one hand it is a criminal offence to drive after drinking a certain amount and, on the other hand, we make it socially acceptable to do it. We pay lip service by saying what a terrible problem this is, but sometimes we turn around and become part of the problem ourselves. If we were serious about it, one thing we could do even on Parliament Hill would be to provide a breathalyser test and allow people to find out what level they had consumed and to see whether it was too much for them to be driving.

If we want to improve the problem of enforcement, we have to change enforcement methods. We have to get after people before they are out on the highways and before they are killing people. Policing parking lots around drinking establishments is one method. There are various kinds of practical methods. Since I do not have time to deal with them all, I suggest that instead of merely trying to address the problem of punishment through Bill C-19, the federal Government should have a conference involving federal and provincial Solicitors General, Attorneys General, Ministers of National Health and Welfare and bring these people together to deal with this question.

Since my time is running out, I wonder if I could have unanimous consent to spend another five minutes on this subject. Failing that, I think this is an important Bill. I am sorry the Liberals have not extended the full amount of time so that it could be discussed. I certainly plan to sit down before six o'clock if I do not obtain unanimous consent to continue for a few more minutes. I think we should have the Bill passed. It should go to committee. It is too important a problem to have the Liberals say that the Government is dealing with it adequately in another Bill, because that other Bill does nothing more than deal with the question of penalties as well. Do I have unanimous consent to continue, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The practice is that Private Members' Hour terminates at six o'clock according to the rules. The Hon. Member is correct in asking for unanimous consent, because this is what would be required. Is there unanimous consent for the Hon. Member to continue?

An Hon. Member: No.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Unfortunately there is not unanimous consent.

Mr. Mazankowski: A Liberal member said, "no".

• (1800)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 45 deemed to have been moved.

FINANCE—FINANCIAL DEFICITS OF ATLANTIC PROVINCES. (B)
REQUEST THAT MINISTER INITIATE NEW GRANTS PROGRAM

Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, the Atlantic Provinces are going in the red to the tune of \$640 million this year, despite a severe austerity program which features a freeze on staff and strict restraint on wages and expenditures. To the credit of employees of the provincial governments, everyone has co-operated to the limit. Indeed, an agreement between a very responsible group, the New Brunswick Teachers' Association, and the Provincial Government of New Brunswick provides no wage increase for the first year of a new contract. In addition, provincial governments have increased taxes to the limit of their potential. Any further increase would be counter-productive. Taxes have reached the point of diminishing returns.

Forty-eight per cent of the revenues of the Atlantic Provinces comes from Ottawa. This dependency has been built up over many years, and it is a worthy goal of regional development to put in place a strong secondary manufacturing base that would increase the private sector component of the Atlantic economies and increase the tax field by providing more corporate and personal taxpayers so that ultimately the Atlantic Provinces can stand on their own feet, throw off the bond of dependency and eliminate the dependence on transfer and equalization payments.

An investment of this nature in the Atlantic provinces is the long-term solution to the problem and it is an investment that will pay the federal Government great dividends by eventually eliminating the need for financial assistance. In the Atlantic Provinces today, wage earners receive two-thirds of the wages paid in other parts of Canada and the unemployment rate is the highest in the nation.

In facing the short-term need for money, the Atlantic Provinces are very limited in the areas they can look to. Clearly taxes have reached their limit and borrowing is not an attractive possibility because any further borrowing may see a decline in the credit rating for provincial bonds from A to B, and it is common knowledge that the largest purchases of bonds from the Atlantic Provinces are pension funds which are not allowed to purchase B bonds.