

Criminal Code
CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR PROVINCIAL
LOTTERIES

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-36, to amend the Criminal Code (provincial lotteries).

[*Translation*]

He said: Mr. Speaker, it is probably the umpteenth time that I rise to speak in this house to try and convince the government that it should welcome the request it has received several times in the course of many years to amend the Criminal Code in order to authorize provincial or national sweepstakes.

During the debate on the Income Tax Act, when one of my colleagues raised a certain point, the hon. member for Rosedale (Mr. Macdonald) asked that the question be put to a vote. He was accusing opposition members of engaging in a filibuster because they were expressing their views on the value of the proposed amendments to the Income Tax Act.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. member will keep his colleagues from engaging in a filibuster in regard to the bill I am introducing and also that he will ask them to allow the question to be put to the vote. I suggest also that he asks his colleagues not to drag on their remarks so that by the vote, people will be informed of this viewpoint on that matter.

Bill C-36 seems to be agreeable to all the population, or at least to the majority of the people of the province of Quebec.

Its provisions differ somewhat from those of similar legislation introduced in the house these last four or five years, since its main purpose is to amend section 179 of the Criminal Code by adding an exception to the qualifications pertaining to the setting up of lotteries.

In short, the bill aims at adding an exception which would read roughly:

That the Criminal Code authorize provinces that so wish to proceed to the establishment or setting up of provincial lottery systems, to help hospitals, social security systems or other organizations whose purpose is to improve the well-being of Canadians.

If this bill is passed, and I hope it will be, it will satisfy the needs of the people.

Objections are being raised across Canada, especially in some areas of some provinces, sometimes for quite justified reasons, but often for highly questionable reasons; but citizens nevertheless oppose the plan for a national lottery to be set up by the government. And that is what prompted me to introduce a bill drafted in such a way as to

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

respect mentality, denomination, in some cases, even the chauvinism of some people about lotteries.

I am also of the opinion that if that bill was agreed upon, it would help to a large extent, in the province of Quebec, to solve the fiscal problems which now face Mr. Lesage and his government.

And if the government makes no move to block the bill through useless discussions, I think we may one day speak of the Pearson plan. However, if the government consciously kills the bill, we will refer to the three P's: Pearson, plan and patronage.

Consequently, I feel it would be better—

Mr. Habel: Are you speaking of patronage?

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Habel) wishes to ask me questions about patronage today, I am in a better position to answer him now than I was last week. For the time being, I would rather deal with the subject under discussion and ignore the nonsensical remarks of the hon. member for Cochrane. I will come back to them later if he wishes me to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I could speak at length on this bill. I could give you its history or expound a philosophical study or thesis on the morality of such a legislation.

I could also give you statistical data to establish a comparison between Canada and the 70 countries that have already enacted similar legislation.

Of course, I could quote a number of documents to support my point and to show the advantages of a lottery such as the one which is proposed in this bill. But I think that would be a waste of time.

During the past several years, we have heard in this house the views of members from all parts of the country, from coast to coast.

In this session, after the movement had been launched by the Conservatives when they were in office in 1958, we have stirred up interest for this bill. I notice that on the order paper, for example, we have several similar bills, one in which the wording is different, that is Bill C-21, introduced by my colleague the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Pigeon). We have also Bill C-24, introduced by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Horner), and then Bill C-44, under the name of the Creditist member for Beauce (Mr. Perron). As for the last one, even though I am greatly pleased to see it on the order paper, I find it is a plagiary, complete with periods and commas, of the bill that I am introducing today.

In the past, members who had gone through the election mill have appealed here on behalf of a lottery. The former member for