

Criminal Code

but a compulsory lottery. It could be interesting to collect an additional \$2 from each taxpayer. Then, while paying taxes we would have a chance of winning \$10,000, \$100,000, \$1,000,000, and this would be a little more pleasant.

I would go a little further than our good friends of the New Democratic party usually do. I would say that if the provincial government was conducting a lottery, it should make it compulsory, otherwise it would not pay.

That is what happened in Montreal when the mayor threatened to resign. Now, as the Montrealers could not take the risk of losing their mayor at a time when the economy was booming, they saw to it that the lottery regain its appeal and a few months later it is again showing a profit. In fact, a lottery is a rather precarious undertaking since we do not know exactly where we are going. This is why I say that if ever a provincial government decides to establish a lottery it would have to make it compulsory.

Mr. Speaker, within the present system, it is more tolerable to offer a small chance to the taxpayer in exchange for his taxes. Even if it is not everybody who wins in a lottery, deep down there is always the hope that someday one may be a winner.

If we are ready to accept such a solution, why not give serious consideration to some other means? One is always ready to look for revenue sources that are contrary to morality and logic, while one neglects to give thought to real remedies, that is to the reform of our present economic system.

That is evidence of the need for Cr ditiste members in the house and of the importance of the part they are playing here. We beg the house and the people to give consideration to effective ways of correcting our administrative system instead of thinking always of taxes and surtaxes. In other words, it is imperative that human development be promoted, and that is what we have been preaching for many years.

[English]

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief in my contribution to this part of our consideration of the amendments to the Criminal Code. As this debate proceeds it becomes more and more strange and more difficult to comprehend or understand. I am supporting the amendment of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) because I think it gives the

[Mr. Matte.]

minister a good out from a very unhappy situation.

For the past several days we have found the state promoting gross indecency. As the result of further amendments in respect of the legalization of lotteries, both private and government, we now find the state promoting one of the seven deadly sins, avarice and greed. I do not think there has been any great public demand for this sort of thing, and I am at a loss to understand why the government is taking such a strong and stubborn initiative in respect of these matters.

We might speculate and say that the motivating principle behind these amendments to the code is to find a panacea to overcome the fiscal situation in which the government finds itself. This is not peculiar to the federal level of government; it applies also to other levels of government.

• (3:50 p.m.)

We have noted the strong protests against exorbitant taxation in the press of Ottawa during the past few days. In promoting the vice of avarice and greed by authorizing the state's indulgence in particular in lotteries, I suggest to the minister that he is dealing with a panacea that is a snare and a delusion. There is no substitute in public finance for the principle of fiscal responsibility. I was reading a commentary on the editorial page of the *Ottawa Citizen* by the editor of that journal, Mr. Christopher Young, who was reviewing the first year of the just society. In that commentary Mr. Young said that when the just society began it was faced with a fiscal crisis of extreme proportions. That was brought on, of course, by another Liberal administration which practised fiscal irresponsibility.

If the government is moving into the area of lotteries and gambling to get itself out of its dilemma, it is operating, of course, in the same never-never world as the compulsive alcoholic who takes just another drink to overcome the hangover from which he is suffering by reason of overindulgence. Obviously, as I have indicated, the government is very stubborn in these matters and is completely committed, it would seem, to the promoting of these aspects of irresponsibility in the Canadian body politic.

The amendment of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre gives the government at least half an out. It simply underlines a principle of government fiscal responsibility which makes it possible for the minister,