

*Criminal Code*

was that the amount of money which found its way into the realm of hospital improvement in the Irish Republic hardly justified the work and problems created by allowing the state to become involved in gambling. I fear that if this were done in Canada, very serious problems could arise with regard to administration.

While I have every intention of supporting the other amendments which the government has introduced I cannot see my way clear to supporting the section with regard to lotteries. Therefore, I intend to support the amendment offered by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

[Translation]

**Mr. Real Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to deal with the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) concerning lotteries; it seems reasonable to us. Actually, the purpose of clause 13 is to add section 179A of the Criminal Code which reads as follows:

(1) Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this Part relating to gaming and betting, it shall be lawful

(a) for the Government of Canada to conduct and manage a lottery scheme in accordance with regulations made by the Governor in Council and for that purpose for any person in accordance with such regulations to do any thing described in any of paragraphs (a) to (f) of subsection (1) or subsection (4) of section 179;

and also to enable the—

(b) For the government of a province either alone or in conjunction with the government of another province—

—thus becoming a sort of co-operative lottery or allowing a group of provinces or two provinces to join together to—

—to conduct and manage a lottery scheme in that province, or in that and such other province, in accordance with any law enacted by

—legislation—

Mr. Speaker, it is generally recognized that people like games of chance, they like gambling; it is only natural.

We see for example, people rushing to church bingoes, or social club bingoes.

Lotteries do not improve the economic level of a nation, a province, a municipality, a school board or whatever. Somebody is making a profit, but at the expense of all of those who buy tickets or indulge in gambling.

Mr. Speaker, according to the spirit of this bill, we will eventually have national, provincial or municipal lotteries, and perhaps even school, charity organizations and social club lotteries. All such lotteries will tend to improve the economic situation of some administration in all those fields.

The municipal lottery of Montreal is still going on. Such a lottery was launched in the hope it would solve the financial problems of that city, but it took a few months to realize that the lottery was inadequate. The municipal authorities had to increase the land tax, public transportation tickets and the cost of all municipal activities.

Provincial and federal lotteries would accomplish the same thing with exactly the same results.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Canada need other things than lotteries. I know people who play bingo. Bingo-playing is a disease, so we play bingo. Not necessarily to support a charitable institution, but in the hope of winning first prize. Sometimes, a week's salary is thus wasted away. As for the salary of the family head, it is spent in one week, playing bingo in the hope of drawing the big prize. Most of the time, one does not draw the big prize; one is poorer than before.

As far as the principle of lottery is concerned, the Ralliement créditiste cannot recognize it. However, there are exceptions to every rule, and we think that our parishes, for instance, or religious organizations—

**An hon. Member:** So there is an exception.

**Mr. Caouette:** There are exceptions because the present system makes them necessary.

If our parish priests were assured of being able to meet their obligations in their field, if young people never spoke of bingoes, there would no longer be problems. I hear the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) speak of that exception. We did not create it, it is the system advocated by the Minister of Justice. He is the one who makes it necessary to resort to exceptions.

From the time I was a child, I have seen all kinds of bingoes and they were all illegal. The parish priest was always afraid of being arrested. No province could authorize the holding of a bingo, because lotteries or bingoes, were dealt with in the Criminal Code, and come under federal jurisdiction.

• (8:50 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, why are lotteries resorted to today? I am speaking about those held by