

Criminal Code
AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

CRIMINAL CODE

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton) for the second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs of Bill C-150, to amend the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act, the Prisons and Reformatories Act and to make certain consequential amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Tariff Act and the National Defence Act.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to have again the opportunity of addressing the hon. members who represent the people of our country in order to deal with Bill C-150, one of the more important than the others, name-view of the fact that it involves judicial reforms of major importance.

Since I feel that the hon. members who spoke before me have dealt adequately with the reforms proposed in this bill, I shall therefore deal at some length in my remarks with four parts of the bill which seem to me more important than the others, namely: the new form which this government wants to give the legislation on lotteries, the reform with regard to the use of firing arms, the breathalyzer test and finally abortion. I shall deal mainly with this last subject which I consider most important since it involves a major human right, the right to live.

To begin with, I do not object to the setting up of lotteries, either at the federal, provincial or individual level and I approve the changes and limitations with regard to the ceiling or the limit, as well as the consequential changes with regard to the value of prizes. In fact, I believe that it could become an economical means for gathering funds for the benefit of various organizations, while this means would recognize the freedom of anyone to contribute, which is not the case with compulsory taxes.

However, I should like to recommend to this government a closer control on the issuance of licences in order to avoid any abuse

[*Mr. Speaker.*]

on the part of the holders. I think that the issuance of licences could lead to too much freedom. In fact, if these licences issued by the Attorneys general of the provinces were not subject to close scrutiny these lotteries could become a sort of public robbery organized under false pretences, because the winners could be designated in advance.

Therefore, I think this is makeshift legislation until the government has the courage to shoulder its responsibilities as a legislator and compels the Bank of Canada to grant the necessary credit to the people in order to provide for the requirements of the Canadians.

On the matter of reforms governing the use of firearms and the granting of permits, I think this measure has been awaited for a long time. It is a happy solution that the superior court of criminal jurisdiction has, at the request of the Attorney General, been empowered to issue warrants whereby it is authorized to confiscate any firearm, offensive weapon, explosive or ammunition. Furthermore, the maximum penalty of two years imprisonment for neglectful use of hunting weapons or others, seems important and necessary to me for minimum public security. Finally, I fully approve adding other items to the list of prohibited weapons as well as the restricted authorization of certain weapons in the proposed amendment.

I am in full agreement with the proposed measures and amendments concerning the breathalyzer tests. In fact, I believe that all automobile drivers should be compelled to undergo this test on request, or be charged with a legal offence. It has been a long expressed hope that such an offence be considered when the tolerable quantity of alcohol in the blood has been exceeded, considering the number of accidents that have been caused by the excessive use of alcohol.

On the subject of Bill C-150, Mr. Speaker, I think it is necessary for us to ponder our views on the matter of abortion as each one of us must be free to think about it and vote according to his conscience.

May I be allowed to remind the hon. members of the summary of section 237 and the amendment proposed to it—amendment introduced on December 19, 1968—so as to state more clearly the essential parts of the problem for the benefit of the Canadian people for I believe that the Canadian people we represent here should be kept well informed.