

Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act

proposition. Presumably this matter has been included in the Criminal Code for all these years because society has felt there is something wrong with the practice. It had to be illegal because it presumably creates hurt and damage to society. I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that making it legal does not make it right. While what was illegal now becomes legal; what was hurtful still remains hurtful.

We have to ask ourselves what is wrong with the entire proposition. First of all, gambling always depends for its success on the fact that most people who participate will lose. The whole system will fail if you have more winners than losers. Gambling is not going to be "a successful" business venture if there are more winners than losers. As other Members have pointed out, there is something morally wrong with government institutionalizing a system which requires more losers than winners. There is something morally wrong with a government which wants to profit on the backs of losers. This is reprehensible and diametrically opposed to the Canadian way of life and the Canadian code of morality.

It is wrong also because it violates patterns of human satisfaction. I think all of us will agree that man is inherently creative, that creativity is man's greatest instinct. I will not deny that all of us get a temporary kick out of a bonanza. We all enjoy a windfall. But that is something quite different from getting satisfaction.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if it is in our nature to be creative, then it seems to me that for us to be happy we have to have satisfaction rather than simply a kick. The only way we can do that is by satisfying our creative instinct, by unleashing our creativity. Therefore, man's greatest satisfaction comes from accomplishment, not from bonanzas. Inherent in this proposal is the attempt to enhance the desire within man to short-circuit the path to satisfaction. That is a disservice to the Canadian people and a denial of the human experience.

What we will end up with, Mr. Speaker, is the Government promoting illusions of instant wealth which will rob people of the inherent human satisfaction experienced when we create something with our own hands. We will have a population directed more and more towards the illusion of instant wealth, when of course the fact is that life is not that way. Most of the time we have to work for what we get. I point to the advertisements for Super-Loto. They show the symbols of wealth, obviously successful people lounging around the yacht club. The obviously wealthy people come in and sit at a table and one successful person says to the other: "Textiles? Shipbuilding?" The answer is: "No, Loto Can". You do not have to invest any more. You do not have to work any more. You do not have to develop your ingenuity any more. You do not have to take risks any more. Just buy a ticket to instant wealth, the leisure class and to acceptability.

We are building these illusions of instant success. We are saying to the unemployed that the way to get wealthy is to buy tickets. We used to say to the young people of Canada that if you will begin early and invest, you can build security. But we are now saying to people that if they will put aside a few bucks and buy a ticket on Loto Select, a sports pool or Loto Canada, they will have a chance of instant wealth. But we never give

the odds. We never say it is a million to one, or, as a speaker pointed out yesterday, that you have more chance of being hit by lightning than of winning a large cash prize.

I remember years ago, Mr. Speaker, when I worked at Fraser Mills as a teenager, that I worked alongside a young man of my age at the time, 18 or 19 years old. He had been working at the mill for some years and when he was 19 years old he was building his third house. I imagine that by today he is probably quite successful, but my friends on the left will ask how he got so wealthy, he does not deserve all that money. Well, the fact is he started early and he saved and he worked. Through the system which the Government wants to introduce right now, it wants to undercut that kind of ethic, that kind of working for success. It wants instant solutions. The program is wrong because it builds an unhealthy world of fantasy and illusion.

• (1550)

Third, it is wrong because it overtaxes low income groups. We see the duplicity of the Government working out programs to help low income groups, whether through UIC, grants or any other program—the Government is always on a grant kick to help low income groups—and at the same time there is now a process by which it can take its money away from the low income groups, because as other Hon. Members have mentioned, statistics regularly show that the loto system is mostly supported by members of the lower income groups in our society.

I see the Minister sitting here, the one who is foisting this Bill on us. It is instructive to notice that one does not see Loto Canada kiosks in the lobbies of banks. One does not see them in the malls right in front of the banks. One does not see these kiosks in the glass tower, high-rise business buildings. Where does one see them? One sees them directly in front of or maybe even inside grocery stores or in the shopping malls. The focus is on impulse buying, not on investment. The focus is on a sense of immediate gratification rather than on building and planning one's future. These operations know very well, and the Government knows very well, that they will not do very well if kiosks are placed in banks or directly in front of banks, because people who go there are planning. They are not looking for instant gratification; they are looking for a return on investment. They are looking for work.

The fact that these kiosks are always situated where people are most vulnerable to impulse is pretty well an indication of where the success will lie. The immorality of the whole system lies in the fact that the Government wants to victimize the group that can least afford to be victimized. If the Government would sell the program to those who made \$50,000 a year or more, then we would say: "Let those people take a risk". But right now, the Government is victimizing those who are in the low income groups.

We are now in the dying stages of this session. Perhaps the fact that the legislation comes at the end of this session is symbolic of the morality of the Government. This legislation is