

Criminal Code

would resent a neighbouring province reaching from across the border for their own resources. This would cause discord within Canada and would be another subject for the governments and citizens in the provinces to wrangle over.

This is why we think that the present act should not become more lenient.

I have another point to draw to the attention of the house. I have listened carefully to every speech since the beginning of this debate on lotteries and nobody raised that point.

I do not wish to venture into any intricacies, Mr. Speaker, but as far as the administration of the province of Quebec is concerned, I know it well enough to be aware of the greediness of some civil servants. Naturally, this does not apply to all of them, but I know that some civil servants are extremely greedy and this may lead to abuses in the administration and the conduct of a provincial lottery.

The same goes for municipalities. According to the *Maclean's* magazine, a gang of criminals in the United States earned \$13,500 and \$14,000 unlawfully.

Mr. Speaker, there is also the danger that the underworld could creep in, even without knowledge of a province or a municipality, to take over the giving of prizes.

We remember what happened not long ago at the Montreal Forum. It was discovered that, unknown to the management, the time-keeping system at hockey games had fallen into the hands of quite unscrupulous persons. It is a danger we could face.

The example of a social club which was for a quite worthwhile project is also quoted. The company involved received \$100,000 for the administration, in addition to \$69,000 in gifts, while the profits for charitable organizations only reached the sum of \$30,000 for a 4-year period.

Mr. Speaker, the dangers arising from the administration of such indirect systems of taxation are very serious and the profits will be small in comparison with the money spent by the people.

Mr. Speaker, I think that it is inadvisable to bring in any amendment to the section on lotteries. Anyhow, I suggest to the house, in case amendment No. 9 is not carried, to take at least the trouble of considering amendment No. 11 to paragraph (b) now under discussion which would prevent any confusion should the provinces wish to avail themselves

of that legislation. This in order to avoid disputes within provincial lottery systems.

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend at this stage to continue my comments on the matter. I know that the house is already acquainted with many views on the subject and I will be pleased to hear others which will be stated.

● (5:40 p.m.)

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is the house ready for the question?

[*Translation*]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I think I should speak on the motion of the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise) to delete clauses 12 and 13 in the omnibus bill. These clauses, as we know, are intended to legalize national as well as provincial lotteries.

Mr. Speaker, I would not want to waste the time of the house, but I should like to put forward some arguments in support of the assertions of the hon. member for Abitibi.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the remarks of the hon. member for Abitibi a while ago, give cause for reflection to all members interested in the administration of our country and give us the opportunity to think about the establishment of a national lottery.

Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest this afternoon the comments of the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) and I am pleased to see that he considers several of our proposals as acceptable.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that members will give more and more consideration to these proposals so as to come to some conclusion.

With regard to lotteries, I think the problem is rather complex. It has often been said since this debate started that the acknowledged purpose of a lottery was to supply an additional source of revenues to the State.

To confirm such statements, I have here an article of *La Presse* dated January 20, 1968, which some members may have read. It is excellent and was written by Mr. André Béliveau. I quote:

No doubt that the main quality of a lottery is that it can be a source of considerable revenues to the State.

Mr. Speaker, the reporter even thinks it his duty to recognize that ultimately the object of a national lottery is indeed to provide the State with additional revenues