

Criminal Code

endangering morals. Thousands of people who might trust such illusory solutions may gamble the welfare of their children, in the hope of becoming rich overnight. Advertising will sell them on the idea that such lotteries will allow their lifelong dreams to materialize in dazzling colour.

● (4:40 p.m.)

Mr. Gilles Marceau (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few remarks on the subject of lotteries.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that some people are made to build and others to destroy. I have the feeling that the government to which I belong falls in the category of the builders and I need not indicate who the destroyers are. We have just heard their remarks showing that they are to accept an opinion contrary to theirs. The worst is that they have not enough common sense to listen to those who intend to express their views as strongly as they do.

Some remarks are called for about lotteries, which through the ages have been seen in different lights. At times, their morality or their opportunity has been questioned, but finally their principle has apparently become accepted almost everywhere.

It would not be exaggerated, I think, to maintain that it is human to want sometimes to try one's luck.

Would I be going too far if I said that in life everything is in a way a lottery. Birth as well as success are the results of chance which sometimes changes completely the life of a man. An unexpected event, a road accident, in short a mere nothing can change the course of his life. Very often man's destiny is the product of chance.

Some sceptics will suggest that I fail to recognize the fundamental characteristics of man, namely will and intelligence, which permit him to make his way alone if he wants to. On the contrary, Mr. Speaker, I recognize these qualities as essential. I only say that sometimes they are not sufficient.

Moreover, for every human being gambling is an obsession. As I said, every man wants to try his luck. Betting is an ordinary thing, whether it be in sports or in speculations.

Ask anyone if from time to time he does not like to try his luck. If he replies no, take his word for it. If he says nothing, you can wonder.

Lotteries have their roots in man's age-old thirst for gambling. The first are reported

to have existed in ancient Rome under Augustus and Nero. I admit that they had quite a simple form at that time: when games or circuses were being held, small tickets were dropped among the crowd; some of them had something written on them, for instance the words: a slave, a horse or an earthen pot, and others were blank. People hurried to pick them up, and those lucky enough to pick up one with an inscription could claim whatever was written on it.

The first organized lottery made its appearance in Italy in the fourteenth century.

Habits have not evolved much since then, Mr. Speaker, for what I have just said is derived from a speech delivered in 1934 by Hon. Athanase David, then Secretary of the Province of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, the more times change, the more alike they are. People think today that a lottery would meet a need.

The best thing would be for Canadians to start saving their money or investing it, but some of them feel they can channel it into games of chance. I do not know how we could prevent them from doing so, but in any event millions of dollars are swallowed up by gambling and go abroad whereas they could be put to use in this country for our own people.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that this legislation will enable our modern society to go one step ahead.

I ask our friends of the Ralliement Cr ditiste to show enough common sense to join the majority of members in endorsing the principle of lotteries.

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to discuss the amendment moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). I am somewhat agreeable to it. I should like to say that we are not opposed to lotteries, in view of the circumstances but if our economic situation rated better, there would be no need for national, provincial, municipal or school barbottes.

Today reference is made to the legalization of lotteries in Canada and in the provinces especially because the provinces, the school boards, the municipalities, and the religious institutions can no longer pay off their tremendous debts.

I would say to the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Marceau) that the citizens who wish to buy tickets will have to go and