

Criminal Code

Mr. Caouette: —he better sit down quietly if he does not want to be rebuffed, and then everything will be settled to the general satisfaction.

Mr. Valade: He lost his deposit.

Mr. Caouette: As the hon. member will probably lose his own in the next general election.

Mr. Valade: You can come into my riding.

Mr. Caouette: I can go into St. Mary, for we have many friends there, and friends who are more sincere than those he has in his own riding.

Mr. Speaker, I heard earlier the hon. member for Beauharnois-Salaberry (Mr. Laniel) ask us how these provincial lotteries would be set up. We simply have to consider the possibility of authorizing the provinces to hold these lotteries in order to assist certain organizations and I do not think that it is necessary at this time for the federal government or any member of this house, to interfere with or to find out how the provinces, Quebec as well as the others, will set up those lotteries within their boundaries. We do not have to be concerned with the way the provinces will sell tickets.

Would Quebec sell tickets in Ontario and would Ontario do the same in Quebec? Those questions do not come under federal jurisdiction. We buy in Canada lottery tickets from Ireland, England and various other countries, and we hear every two or three months that a Canadian won first prize and will get \$100,000, \$150,000, \$50,000 or whatever. It seems to me that is none of our business. If the Irish and the English are selling tickets in our country now, why should not the province of Quebec sell tickets in Ontario, Manitoba or the maritime provinces?

Mr. Speaker, the main question is to find out if the federal government should give the provinces the right to set up lotteries.

We have seen in the province of Quebec—because we are used to it—members of the provincial police interfere in some parishes, some localities, saying that the parish priest or the parish had no right to organize a bingo game. And yet the officials of a hockey club, a branch of the Knights of Columbus, a parish organization or a branch of the St. Jean Baptiste society were allowed to hold a monster bingo night in many parishes of Quebec, although federal legislation expressly forbids it.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that the provinces should be free to hold bingos and lotteries so that, in the future, provincial police will

have no reason to say that the federal law prohibits gambling.

Let the provinces be free to act according to their conscience, according to their needs, and organize their own business without federal interference.

I fully support the bill introduced by the hon. member for St. Mary from that standpoint and I sincerely hope that it will be put to a vote before six o'clock.

I should like to conclude by saying to present Conservative members that when the provinces, especially the province of Quebec, asked such an authorization four or five years ago, the Conservatives who were then in office should have acceded to their request. Today, the hon. member for St. Mary blames the government for its failure to accept this proposal, whereas his own party took no action along that line when it was in office. Such an attitude seems to me inconsistent with the present situation.

Nevertheless, I support this measure and I congratulate the hon. member for having introduced it. I do not wish to detain the house any longer, as I wish hon. members to be able to vote on this motion, so that the provinces will have the power to organize, within their own jurisdiction and by means of logical and honest methods, the necessary ways to give assistance to hospitals, benevolent and welfare organizations, which would help the people concerned as a whole.

[Text]

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I very much like to see these private members' resolutions come to a vote and not be talked out, and for that reason I am going to try to compress my remarks into about three or four minutes. I would like to say at the outset that what I have to say is purely my own; in this respect I speak for no party, no church, no other organization. I may be a minority of one, for all I know. I want to speak on this matter and when the opportunity to vote comes, as I hope it will, I intend to vote against the bill that is now before the house.

I do not believe that lotteries are a useful or worth-while means of raising money either for hospitals or any other purpose. I think the prohibition in the Criminal Code was based on a very sound social philosophy.

I am not prepared, Mr. Speaker, to make a reasoned argument on this matter, but I have received material from the Canadian council of churches and other organizations which have given a close and careful study to the question of lotteries. Of course we all want