

Criminal Code

illusory promises which will keep them hoping that they might become rich overnight.

The poor will be taken advantage of. They will be deluded into the belief they might get rich. There will be more and more victims.

Mr. Laniel: This is human nature.

Mr. Rondeau: This is taking advantage of human nature as the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Laniel) remarked. We are not here to take advantage of the vices of people, but to protect them from them.

If last year we were deluded into believing that electing the Liberal party would help us find a solution to our problems, we soon found out that we had been entertaining illusions in that respect. Today, we want to establish a lottery; it is nothing more than an economic illusion.

At the same time, this is a wrong conception of morality, since we know by experience that wealthy peoples have lost their fortune by indulging in their vice: card playing or some other form of gambling. We have even seen people lose considerable amounts of money betting on cock-fights. Families who had been led to believe in illusory solutions were ruined. The purpose of lotteries is to take advantage of the vices and of the immorality of the people.

I have here another book entitled: *Lotteries, the Great Illusion*, written by Mr. E. M. Howse, in which he says, and I quote:

[*English*]

All the old arguments, discredited long since by past misery and corruption, are being marshalled again to promote this sordid device for paying our legitimate bills for hospitals, education and honourable philanthropy.

[*Translation*]

This means that to save hospitals, to help education and religious works, we are reduced to exploiting vice.

I have just said that the proceeds of lotteries could provide the various religious organizations or hospitals with an income that would enable them to operate four days more, according to the figures supplied to us.

[*English*]

In 1963 race track betters in Ontario alone poured into parimutuel machines \$153,506,144—a total of \$28,506,000 more than they took out in all their winnings . . .

The Irish sweepstakes annually take from Canadians several times what they return in prizes. (Counterfeit tickets take the gullible public for enormous extra amounts) . . .

It was said of the Bourbons of France, before the collapse of the ancien régime, that they forgot

[Mr. Rondeau.]

nothing and learned nothing. Proponents of lotteries as a means of supporting hospitals, education or the vast philanthropies of a democratic people, seem to outdo the Bourbons.

● (4:30 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

It is noteworthy, Mr. Speaker, that every country resorted to lotteries before going bankrupt. I believe that today, the fact that we want to legalize gambling in Canada is a premonitory sign of bankruptcy.

It is often said that life is a gamble that life is at the mercy of hazard.

[*English*]

"All life's a gamble." This is nonsense. What people mean is that life has risks. But there is a clear distinction between a gamble and merely a risk. Risk is a necessary element in life, an element to be intelligently reduced. One of the astronauts, when asked about the risks that he took, replied that he took no risk. He was right.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we are on the point of legalizing risks. This bill which deals mostly with lotteries, threatens to lead the nation to moral decadence for which we will have to pay later.

It is clear that when vice is rampant and legalized, it is soon necessary to check its consequences. And the amount of money that we will have spent for this purpose will be far greater than what the government hopes to put at the disposal of religious organizations and provincial governments by allowing them to conduct lotteries.

If it is wished to help religious organizations, it should be ascertained that they approve of them themselves. As a matter of fact, I have in hand many documents that I do not have time to put on record, but which prove that even religious organizations are opposed to lotteries, because they prefer to respect their principles rather than to fill up their coffers.

A Baptist organization from Ontario and Quebec has passed the following resolution aiming at a special study of the historic background of lotteries:

Considering that approval of such provisions would be of assistance and accessory to a quick development of gambling in Canada;

Considering that lotteries appeal to the poor, who become the victims of an illusory hope regarding the solution of their problems;—

This organization firmly states its opposition to lotteries.

Now, Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, we believe that the paltry sums lotteries might bring to church organizations are not worth