

S.O. 21

our amendment which would have assured that this move could not lead to a wide open promotion of a myriad of electronic games. We are already plagued with these in our communities. Our kids are hanging out at the electronic pinball palaces, where they run into people who push drugs and commit petty break and entry in order to pay for their habit. We read about that in society today.

The Government has rejected our amendment which would have restricted the scope of this kind of lottery, so there is nothing to prevent it from going into all kinds of electronic gaming and distributing these things in our communities where they can corrupt our children. This can all be done with the nice red and white Liberal Party logo stamped in the corner—"officially on behalf of the Government of Canada".

I think that what the Minister is trying to put over in the House smells to high heaven, Mr. Speaker. I put a question in the House to the former Minister who had responsibility for Loto Select. That boondoggle had ordered \$17,000 worth of foil-wrapped chocolate candies to be given away as a promotional gimmick. It had leased space in a building in Vancouver, hired a lot of people and entered into a contract with General Instruments of the United States, without going to tender, for 2,000 slot machines as part of the Loto Select initiative. At the end, the whole thing was written off at a cost of \$37 million, including severance allowances and \$10,000 compensation for over 50 employees.

This all happened under the aegis of that other great prominent Liberal, the former Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sports who came from Skeena and who now presents herself as President of the Liberal Party of Canada and perhaps future candidate for the leadership of that Party. In answer to the question I put to her in December, 1978 about the corruption, scandal and lack of control over the Loto Select boondoggle, she said that Canadian lottery winners are extremely intelligent in their investment in Loto Canada because they are able to maintain most of their dollars in their bank accounts.

Such stupidity, Mr. Speaker; such utter, unadulterated stupidity. This was the reply of a Minister of the Crown who was giving all her time to promoting Loto Canada. She was running around smiling, jumping over barricades and pretending to be a fitness freak when she should have been attending to Government business in some important economic portfolio. We are going around in that same old circle again, Mr. Speaker, with the present Minister who is not destined to sit long in this House. But he wants to go out in flames of glory and leave something that we will have to eliminate when we take office.

The former Minister said that Canadian lottery winners are extremely intelligent in their investment because they are able to maintain most of their dollars in their bank accounts. What about the losers, Mr. Speaker? The losers are the ten million who buy a ticket and do not win. What about the investment in

their bank account? They are spending household money at the rate of \$40 per capita. If we were to examine the weighting toward low-income Canadians, I wager that many of them would be spending \$100 per capita. What about their bank accounts? Is it so intelligent for the Government to encourage them to spend money that should be spent on children's shoes and clothing, mortgage payments and all the things they need in times of tremendous economic difficulty? It smells of moral bankruptcy, Mr. Speaker.

It is quite clear that Members of this Party will vote against this measure. All the indications are that the revenues predicted cannot possibly be realized. If the Quebec hockey lottery is any example, the Government will be lucky to raise \$10 million or \$20 million, not the \$80 million or \$100 million that was predicted.

In conclusion, I should like to say that the people of Canada will remember this and demand some changes. Already they are demanding a return to family values and respect for all the things that government should do as an example to our children. I for one will do everything I can to eliminate the sports pool operation when it comes before the next Government of Canada.

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Mr. Speaker, I rise to take part in the debate on third reading of Bill C-95. May I call it one o'clock before I start my remarks and continue after Question Period?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

NATIONAL UNITY

ALLEGED DECLARATION BY PREMIER RENÉ LÉVESQUE IN FRANCE

Mr. Raymond Savard (Verdun-Saint Paul): Madam Speaker, today, on behalf of all senior citizens groups in the riding of Verdun-Saint Paul, I wish to speak out against the statement made in France by Mr. René Lévesque. I think the Premier of Quebec must have been out of his mind to make such a shameful statement, in which he said that he would win the