

Private Members' Business

more and more people are succumbing, even though the argument is totally illogical.

Last summer, there were a series of advertisements in the province of Ontario that led to this bill being drafted. The advertisements reminded people that even while they were away at their cottages the lotteries were being run. So, even while you are at your cottage, make sure that a day does not go by without you having bought a ticket that day because your lucky number may come up.

When I saw that advertisement, I thought that it just had gone too far. Surely there is a responsibility at the level where these lotteries were conceived, which was in this place, to examine the degree to which lotteries are being increasingly used. I would also like to see an examination of the amount of advertising money that is spent, the percentage of the proceeds that is used for good works, compared to the percentage that is used for ever-increasing amounts of advertising. I want to commend this bill to the House.

I can see by members opposite nodding that they would be prepared to give this bill all three readings today. I would be content simply to see the bill referred to a committee. I think it would be a desirable thing to do because when and if this bill becomes law, it imposes a sanction that applies only to provincial governments. Therefore, since only they are allowed to run lotteries in the country of the sort that I am proposing to limit advertising for, it ought to go to committee.

Provincial governments and their lottery corporations should be given notice of our concerns. We should have research staff and some studies should be done in a Canadian context which would show the extent to which gambling is increasing and the extent to which the advertising of lotteries is becoming a bigger and bigger part of the cost of the whole business.

Also I certainly think it would be worth while to study the impact of buying lottery tickets on the families and on the individuals who are buying lottery tickets.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, I thank you, and I hope that this bill will at least be referred to a parliamentary committee.

[English]

Mr. Benno Friesen (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, I am in a little jam on this one. I agree with much of what the member has just said about gambling *per se*, but I find it difficult to support his motion. I guess what bothers me is that he was part of the government that brought in Lotto Canada and now he wants to restrict the advertising of it. I find that a bit of a contradiction, particularly since the member bringing this measure forward was Solicitor General for about four years between 1980 and 1984 and had ample opportunity at that time to bring forth the kind of measure that he is talking about now. He could have encouraged it in the cabinet at that time. Maybe he did and was not successful, I do not know.

• (1330)

I remember when Lotto Canada was introduced with fanfare. It was our belief that the federal government should not be in the gambling business. I remember that you had to be very well connected to the Liberal Party to get a franchise for selling Lotto Canada tickets. I remember most of all how a colleague of mine whose wife was contacted to be an agent for Lotto Canada. Somehow the communications had got mixed up in the Liberal Party and they thought that she was connected with the office of one of the Liberal members of Parliament. After she had been offered the franchise, they found out much to their chagrin that she was not the person they thought she was. She said "Well, that's fine. I don't really need it. I have an appointment with *The Globe and Mail* anyway." All of a sudden the franchise was forthcoming. That is the first thing I remember about Lotto Canada. The second thing I remember was the time that boxes of Lotto Canada tickets were missing.

When we formed the government in 1979 we were convinced that the federal government should not be in the lottery business in the first place. We divested ourselves of that under the leadership of the Right Hon. Joe Clark. We divested ourselves of that business because we did not believe that we should be doing it. We turned it over to the provinces for their administration and for their financial profit.

I do not hold to the lottery business at all. I have to say to the member, who was a member of the government at that time, since his government brought the lotto business into Canada, how did he expect the business to be propagated, by word of mouth? You know "Hey, pal, I've