

*Criminal Code*

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, these few facts prove that this legislation that we are asked to approve will bring no real assistance to our charitable institutions, our schools and our hospitals. It is unfortunate to go as far as to want to legalize what they have been trying to legalize in other countries for three or even five centuries. They have given it up because it was thought that despite the few advantages that could be derived from lotteries, it would raise problems and increase governmental expenditures in the field of social welfare and the administration of justice.

It is a shame to see that through legislation we will push the public more and more towards vice.

The hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) mentioned that many mayors have asked to conduct municipal lotteries. However, several municipal councils have passed resolutions asking the federal government to find other means of raising money.

I think the government should have the same attitude in respect of these resolutions already proposed by various municipalities. I could have several put on record.

These same municipalities have also suggested that the federal government use the Bank of Canada to take care of their financing.

In fact, the city of Granby, passed three years ago a resolution suggesting that the Bank of Canada be used to make money available to municipalities, school boards and public bodies. However, the federal government failed to act upon that resolution.

Why not start by enacting some measures that would help financially not just a few individuals, but also our municipalities and our school boards.

Whatever lotteries could bring to municipalities, hospitals, school boards or various organizations would be only a drop in the bucket as compared to their needs.

Why try in 1969 to legalize lotteries, when the government of Alberta tried, in 1935 to put money on the market, not paper money, but credit money? And yet, the Prime Minister of the time, the Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, had promised, after the general elections of 1935, that he would authorize the Alberta government to apply the principles set forth during the election campaign of Mr. William Aberhart. It had been said that the federal government would create no restriction to prevent the government of Alberta

from applying the principles the citizens of that province had voted for.

● (4:20 p.m.)

The federal government "will take his hands off". Those were the very words of the Prime Minister of the time. However, after the general elections of 1935, the federal government, as well as the Supreme Court, did everything to prevent the Alberta government from applying those principles.

It was not a lottery, nor some kind of hoax or fraud. It was something really serious and scientific. Why, then, was the government of Alberta not given the opportunity to apply those principles, since it was not a bunch of idiots who had been elected? Why were they not given the chance to carry out the wishes of Mr. William Aberhart?

Why pay attention to mayors when they ask that lotteries be put at the service of the provinces? Why not do what they also requested many times? The mayor of Thetford Mines, for instance, once laughed at a resolution passed by the Union of Municipalities asking precisely what the Créditistes have been requesting in the house for 30 years, that the Bank of Canada be used to finance public capital, in order to solve our present problems.

If lotteries were legalized, it would be an admission that there is not enough money in circulation. Despite lotteries, there will not be a penny more in circulation. Lotteries will not solve the problems of hospitals and will not replenish the funds of some religious organizations.

The creation of lotteries is an undeniable proof that our present economic system is unsound. It is not by allowing the provinces to legalize vice that we will settle our financial problems.

If we legalize vice to replenish the Treasury, why not apply the same absurd argument and legalize prostitution also? Why not, like other countries, legalize prostitution to bring money into the Treasury, if we must speculate on vice? Why not, for that matter, make money out of all vices? In that manner, we could replenish the Treasury with all the money that vice monopolizes now.

I have on hand several statements from authorized persons who have already given their views on what we are discussing presently.

First, lotteries will contribute to the exploitation of the poor. They will be lured with