

Criminal Code

that legislation for the establishment of provincial lotteries and giving to the federal government the authority to act in that field.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to mention now that I had made a study and some inquiries myself. I had written to nearly all the Canadian mayors in order to inquire from the councillors as to whether the people of Canada were in favour of lotteries.

Contrary to what many may think, not a single province in Canada objected to the passing of such legislation.

In a province which I do not want to mention and which was the least in favour of the bill 67 per cent of its citizens approved the establishment of provincial lotteries in Canada.

In the province of Quebec, the figure was over 90 per cent while in Ontario it was over 80 per cent. Most people in all the provinces were agreeable to such a measure.

So we are respecting, I think, the will of the Canadian population which is asking us to legalize lotteries. I should like to emphasize that since the leader of the New Democratic party is against the legalization of lotteries. I would invite him to refer to the official report of the house where he will find that his own party had already recommended and moved the passing of that legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that the lottery scheme is a must in the context of modern Canada. Anyone knows that every day millions of lottery tickets are sold in Canada. Lotteries have been established all over the world, in Jamaica, Ireland, Britain, New Zealand, Mexico, and so forth. Over 70 countries in the world have set up lottery schemes. I might point out that New Zealand has set up what is called a "Peewee" lottery, designed to provide the federal government with an indirect source of revenue.

In some cases, it is really an indirect tax, paid, all the same, on a voluntary basis. In that country, the lottery scheme has succeeded so well that the government had to increase the amounts of the prizes and reduce the price of tickets because it showed excess revenues.

Those are facts that the hon. members can readily check through relevant statistics.

Concerning that amendment to the omnibus bill, it remains to be seen whether, by means of the legislation, we shall prevent an outflow of millions of Canadian dollars abroad. According to Progressive Conservative quarters, they are estimated at \$300 million. They

[Mr. Valade.]

serve for such purposes as welfare, social assistance or hospitalization, while we are in great need of them here in Canada.

I am surprised to hear the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise) advocate the passage of a legislation depriving Canadian citizens of some benefits they would obtain without any levy of new taxes.

I regret that it took us so long to pass this legislation.

We are aware of one fact: the Mayor of Montreal, Mr. Jean Drapeau, has set up what he calls a voluntary tax, which is in fact a lottery. All this shows the hypocrisy of this government. By its indecision and its delays, it incited people to indulge in this hypocrisy, since a lottery has been simply established under the disguise of a voluntary tax. I want to point out the danger of a government which is not willing to meet the needs and the conditions of our time.

Should we have legalized lotteries a long time ago, we would not have induced the people to indulge in hypocrisy openly and to scorn the law. As far as I am concerned, Mayor Drapeau's lottery is surely a lottery, and under section 179 of the Criminal Code, it is illegal. I do not want to dwell on this subject, because the matter is before the High Courts. Since this matter is *sub judice*, it would not be proper to discuss it here.

Mr. Speaker, some people across Canada have shown a very great interest in this matter.

Among others, a lady who had no other obligation left all her savings there. She spent several years to get thousands of signatures in favour of this bill. I am referring to Mrs. Mary English, whom I greatly admire. She travelled across Canada for many years to show the benefits that Canadians would derive from a lottery. Of course, she lost her last penny and the shirt off her back. She made great sacrifices and I am glad of this opportunity to pay a tribute to her. When Canadians really take an interest in public matters, they can accomplish great things for the good of Canada. I have looked into her work and this is why I feel I must speak of it.

It would be useless, Mr. Speaker, to elaborate further on the advantages of lottery and on the proposed amendment. I hope that as soon as the bill is passed in Parliament, the provincial governments will be able, through well-concerted measures, to avoid competition; a non-competitive position is what we are after, and this amendment