

Criminal Code

Canadian money is going to Ireland instead of remaining in Canada to be used for social purposes. If one were to examine the hospital and educational institutions in Ireland one would very quickly realize that they have made little or no advance in these areas. When one thinks of the huge amount of money collected and the small amount used one cannot help but be greatly discouraged by this attempt to meet the cost of social programs. The experience in New York State, and I would think in the city of Montreal, has shown that this approach is not one which has met with success.

I believe that lotteries create an emotional instability among members of our community. In many instances, because money is spent on gambling families are deprived of some of the necessities of life. It is a rather sad commentary to note that churches, which are the guardians, educators and teachers in respect of our moral and spiritual life, should use bingos and lotteries as a means of financing the building of churches. I do not think most Canadians like to think it is necessary to use such methods to build churches. I for one am strongly opposed to the lottery clauses in the bill.

With regard to the provisions in respect of the breathalyzer test I am sure most members are in agreement with this because of the murder on our highways which in many instances is due to the use of alcohol. One of the members from British Columbia set forth the practice in that province whereby the police, after stopping a person whose ability has been impaired, give him an opportunity either to park his car and go home or take a breathalyzer test. The person must surrender his driving licence for a period of 24 hours. Considering that a conviction carries with it restriction in respect of employment, travel and bonding, I would hope members of the committee would give serious study to the approach taken by British Columbia.

A recent survey by the Ontario Addiction Research Foundation shows that the greatest danger to high school students in Toronto is not drugs but alcohol. Robert Robinson, the foundation's director of education, stated after results of the survey were known:

There is no doubt that alcohol is more dangerous than marijuana, glue-sniffing and L.S.D., because it is more widely used and because of its long-term effects.

• (4:30 p.m.)

One appreciates the changes in the law in other jurisdictions, more specifically in Great Britain. The note I have indicates that authorities in Great Britain believe that under the new U.K. drinking law the breathalyzer may have saved 1,000 lives in the first full year of its use. For the ten months to the end of July deaths were down 1,075 or 12 per cent from the previous comparable period. Cases of serious injury dropped by more than 10,000, or 9 per cent.

I think this is the reason most Canadians are in agreement will the change involving the use of the breathalyzer. We welcome the amendment bringing about improvements to the Parole Act. I would hope that when we reach the committee stage we will invite representatives from the Canadian Corrections Association, who have already filed a brief in respect of this matter, to attend the committee and inform members of their views as to further amendments to improve the act. We also welcome the changes in respect of summary conviction appeals. Any lawyers who have had experience in this field I am sure have found many hang-ups, and I congratulate the government for attempting to correct this problem.

We appear to be at the cross-roads of society. We need a new lift and a new outlook. This is why so many Canadians are looking to the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General for the development of bold and courageous initiatives to update the law so that Canadians will be able to say they live in the most updated community in the world.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Marceau (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, having listened to the comments made by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin), I thought it would be only natural for a government member representing a constituency in the province of Quebec to set forth his views on the bill now under consideration.

I do not believe it would be advisable to prolong the debate. Since this bill will eventually be referred to the committee on justice and legal affairs, there will likely be lengthy discussions there and, on third reading, there will probably be other comments in the light of the conclusions the committee will have arrived at.