

Criminal Code

gambling of the people. However, I admit that within some limits, one must give way to one's instincts and this gambling spirit which is linked to the desire to make a fast buck.

Therefore, if we want to replenish the public treasury by exploiting that passion, it is not desirable to that extent, but as has been repeated many times—and we take pleasure in doing so—as long as we do not cure that ill and administer the proper remedy, we will have to accept, whether we like it or not, these various palliatives which are an attempt to solve, in a way, the taxation problem.

I do say "settle in some way" since this morning, in the house, my colleague, the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau), pointed out for a fact that lotteries organized in various countries have only succeeded in financing administrative costs of hospitals for three or four days. So, this is not a very interesting solution. If some consideration had been given to other means, we would not be facing such problems now. Should we favour lotteries or not? It is unfortunate that we have not been able to give serious consideration to other solutions to the financial problems.

And, as lotteries that we are asked to legalize, are generally held for the purpose of helping the under-privileged and various welfare institutions, the matter is directly related to the human being.

Instead of letting us debate such matters, the government should propose various economic solutions to be applied in order to avoid surtax, to help the poor as well as such organizations whose object is to protect human beings.

If we had to discuss that, it would be more interesting than to be kept in the dark and to have to wonder whether or not it would be advisable to legalize lotteries. It is not funny really to talk about rather unimportant and artificial things which offer no solution to the economic problems.

Heaven knows how often the *Créditistes* have put the finger on these problems these past years. And they also suggested true solutions. We must unfortunately realize that we are not taken seriously enough. But some day the reason behind the legalization of lotteries will be taken into consideration and it will be realized then that this was a big step forward. In the meantime, we are in the dark.

Where will the money to be invested in lotteries come from? Will it be a new form of credit? Where will the participants find

the money? The hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe) said this afternoon that some people are so eager to gamble that they would go as far as borrowing in order to be able to take part in lotteries. Well, then money is not fulfilling its true function which should be to serve the individual and help him achieve personal development.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about lotteries, games of chance and I would like to indicate that I am more interested than usual in the hockey game, tonight, precisely because I have made a few bets.

● (8:20 p.m.)

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to make a few comments on the amendment of the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise) because it concerns lotteries, a subject I have been interested in for many years.

It is probably known, Mr. Speaker, that since 1951, I have advocated amendments to the Criminal Code, to legalize lotteries, both at the provincial and federal levels.

The motion of my colleague, the hon. member for Abitibi, intends to delete such amendment to the Criminal Code. I am somewhat surprised since, in the past, some of his leagues of the *Ralliement Créditiste*, in bills they introduced in the house, sort of plagiarized the one I myself proposed in past years for the establishment of a provincial lottery. I must say that I am somewhat disappointed, since it has taken the house more than 10 years of consultations, discussions, hesitations and studies of all kinds to finally arrive at a solution.

I would have been easy several years ago to make that amendment to the Criminal Code, in order to legalize lotteries if there had been less partisanship in this house on the matter, since most Canadians are in favour of it.

I remember having introduced in this house a few years ago a bill, the passage of which had been moved by a member of the New Democratic Party. Unfortunately, the bill was defeated because it was considered during the private members' hour and time ran out before it could be passed by the house. But on that occasion, all the hon. members supported my motion.

I am pleased, even if it is a little late that this house has listened to reason and has decided that the committee on justice and legal affairs should recommend the passage of