

Criminal Code

To follow up such an argument, we should add that it could become necessary to legalize theft when it is committed by consenting persons over 21 on the grounds that it would be done anyway.

That is nonsense, I might be told. I agree and that is why I cannot accept a similar argument with regard to homosexuality. It is generally recognized that homosexuality is a disease, and sometimes a vice. I believe this is true to a very large degree. That is why I do not think that the appropriate cure is the legalization of such a practice or such a vice.

In order to explain myself, Mr. Speaker, I shall say that a few years ago a terrible disease, tuberculosis, was prevalent in our country, and perhaps more particularly so in the province of Quebec.

Each year, thousands of people died from the disease. What was the reaction? Did the government pass legislation to legalize the disease, on the grounds that it was prevalent? Of course not, but it launched an education campaign, asking the people to co-operate to control it. Indeed, thanks to all kinds of preventive and remedial measures, the ravages of tuberculosis have been reduced to the minimum, so that the number of people suffering from that disease is now very small.

That is the reason why I sincerely believe, Mr. Speaker, that the cure for homosexuality is not legalization but rather recourse to preventive measures such as a skilful and objective information campaign among the public, and to curative methods applying to the victims of that evil.

Effective steps should be taken in jails and penitentiaries so that young people will not be contaminated by professionals in depravity. Parents should also have an opportunity to secure information on that problem, and so to caution their children in time, even in their first years in school.

I have been given a petition signed, as I said earlier, by about 5,000 people, who, as it happens, are against Bill No. C-150. Instead of reading it, I shall ask the house to allow me to table those documents which might be printed as an appendix to today's *Hansard*.

Finally there is also the amendment aiming to make lotteries legal. In that respect, I believe that as long as our monetary system has not been reformed or adapted to meet the needs of the times, governments will experience more and more serious difficulties. This

is why, I believe, the government is now thinking of legalizing lotteries. However, if we had a healthy monetary system, adapted to the needs of our times and making use of the Bank of Canada, such as the one Social Credit is proposing, and which I am told was referred to at the federal-provincial conference, the State would not have to resort to such a system of disguised taxation consisting of lotteries.

As to the amendment regarding driving while intoxicated, I am of the opinion that it is an improvement. Indeed, too many drivers are a real hazard on our roads. Every day, we can read in the paper about injuries and losses of life inflicted all too often by drivers who have been drinking. It is time to cure that plague. Our children are killed, families are broken, owing to the death of the father, of the mother, or of both of them. However refusal to submit to a breathalyzer test should not, in my view, be considered as a criminal offence.

In short, Mr. Speaker, let me say that I would have liked a free vote on this bill.

I only have two more sentences, Mr. Speaker—

• (4:30 p.m.)

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to inform the hon. member that his time has expired, unless it is the wish of the house that he be allowed to continue. I understand he has only one sentence. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for allowing me to continue my remarks.

The government says it was elected to administer and I do not disagree with that. But hon. members were elected to legislate and that is why I would decide in favour of a free vote, without thinking that the government might run the risk of being overthrown. We do not ask for a confidence vote but a free vote, whose only effect would be the passing or the rejection of a bill so important for the future of our country which will continue to develop if we have the wisdom and the courage to assume all our responsibilities.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.