

Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act

Athletes do not compete just once, in Calgary. They compete through a development stage. Unfortunately, in Canada that will not occur because we will direct very little money in that direction. We are not going to identify athletes, let alone begin a development program. How can you have a development program if you have no coach, no professional who can travel around? If you identify a coach but leave him sitting in Ottawa instead of travelling around the country to schools and track meets, swim meets or whatever to find and develop athletes, the development program will not take place.

This is a chicken and egg argument. There is the identification and then the development of the athlete. Not only do you have development of the athlete but there is the maintenance of the athlete. They cannot be maintained for just the three months of the competition. Athletes have to be maintained over a period of 15 or 20 years if we are to achieve the excellence for which we strive.

I do not think the Bill is going to do this, Mr. Speaker, and I do not think the House of Commons is going to do it. I have not heard the spirit of the Olympics mentioned in this debate. I have not heard the Minister express his concern that Canada has the capacity for excellence. We have the young athletes with the desire, the talent and the ability, but they are starving, living together in welfare clutches. Yet they are called upon to produce excellence of spirit and mind and body. None of these things has been developed, Mr. Speaker. Like everyone else, these young athletes need jobs. They need jobs that are flexible and that will allow them to travel.

I feel very strongly about this subject, Mr. Speaker. I have lived through this with athletes. I know they have to make sacrifices of mind, body, spirit—and financial sacrifices. They give their country more than they receive and it is about time they were supported properly and financially, not by a lottery but by a commitment of the Government of Canada.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Pursuant to Standing Order 79, the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines) moved:

Motion No. 4.

That Bill C-95, An Act to provide for Government operated pool systems on combinations of athletic contests and events and to amend the Criminal Code and the Income Tax Act, be amended in Clause 21 by striking out lines 15 to 43 at page 9 and substituting the following therefor:

"each year by the Auditor General of Canada."

He said: Mr. Speaker, "Some of you may wonder", the Minister said in committee, "how the Canadian Sports Pool Corporation will be accountable". That is the subject of this motion. He went on to point out that the operations of the Canadian Sports Pool would be monitored, and that it would have to submit to the Minister responsible and to the Governor in Council a plan of corporate and fiscal activities.

Hon. Members are all well aware of the scandals that plagued Loto Canada's life. The Canadian public will never know the half of what porkbarrel purposes their money was put to. Yet Loto Canada was subject to monitoring by the Minister responsible, and it was subject to audits of sorts.

Recently in this House we discussed at length the involvement of four Ministers of the Crown in connection with the Gillespie affair. We have the report as contained in the *Richmond News* as early as September 23, 1981, of the interest of another Liberal put out to pasture by the electorate of B.C. who thinks he will have the inside track for the supply and delivery of the hard computer equipment necessary. The name is Cafik and it was included in the press report.

The name of the biggest game in town so far as this Government is concerned is patronage, and Loto Canada gave full opportunity for much of that. To give some credibility to a game of chance, we propose that the books of this Crown corporation be subject to an annual audit by the Auditor General of Canada. The Auditor General might then review the systems of control and accountability, and provide some check on the ticket distribution and the revenue returns. The Auditor General himself in a recent statement has emphasized that the 306 Crown corporations form a sort of sub-parliamentary group with parliamentary scrutiny ranging from sporadic to none at all.

This has been the experience with respect to Crown corporations already in existence. We have been opposed to the introduction of more Crown corporations but this Bill proposes to establish another Crown corporation to run a gambling game. This is the history of monitoring by the Minister responsible and the kind of accountability that has been put in place by this Government. With this kind of track record and with the kind of corporation that could lend itself to abuse, we should do all we can to protect the gambling dollars of Canadians. The odds against them are bad enough without making those odds worse by human abuse and error.