

*Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act*

Province of Quebec tried its sports pool. It did not put up any particular prize. It did not advertise that there was a prize of \$100,000; \$500,000 or \$1 million. It merely said that a portion of the amount from the number of tickets sold would be available for first prize. If not many tickets were sold, perhaps the prize would be \$10. Try a lottery on that basis and see how much money you make out of it. They did not want to succeed with their sports pool. The Hon. Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes) should have known that. He should have taken the trouble to have found that out before coming in here and saying what he did. He mentioned the size of the market. We talked about the different clientele.

• (1710)

I am not terribly in favour of lotteries myself. I do like sports pools a little better than lotteries, I think, because they involve the skill of a person who follows the sport—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Regan:** The Hon. Member laughs. I bet I can decide the scores of the Stanley Cup better than he—

**Mr. Fennell:** I would not want to boast about that.

**Mr. Regan:**—because I have a little skill.

**Mr. Fennell:** That is not skill.

**Mr. Regan:** The Hon. Member would not want to boast. He can take that sort of sophisticated attitude that sport is nonsense.

**An Hon. Member:** That is a crap game.

**Mr. Regan:** The Hon. Member says it is a crap game. He might be good at marbles, but I doubt it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Regan:** Several Members on the other side, and I am speaking particularly of the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn) and the Hon. Member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Scott), talked with that superior attitude that we as legislators should decide whether or not people are allowed to spend their money in a certain way, and that we should regulate, it. Probably we should say that no working man is allowed to buy more than 12 pints of beer a month. Probably we should say that a person is not allowed to go to bingo more than twice a month. That is the attitude they show in their words when they say quite clearly, it is very bad for working people, and this is a tax on the poor. All of the statistics show it is not a tax on the poor. People who buy sports pool tickets where they exist and, indeed, those who buy lottery tickets come equally from all income segments. Just to say automatically it is a tax on the poor without having done homework again is something about which I complain.

**Mr. Reid (St. Catharines):** Surveys prove it.

**Mr. Regan:** The surveys prove exactly what I just said. The statistics are quite clear on the subject. All income groups

spend approximately one-third of 1 per cent of their annual income on this subject.

I want to say there are two or three things which the likeable rogue from Edmonton North mentioned.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I regret to interrupt the Minister of State for International Trade (Mr. Regan) but the ten-minute period allotted to him has expired. He may continue with unanimous consent.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** There does not appear to be unanimous consent. Therefore I recognize the Hon. Member for Grey-Simcoe (Mr. Mitges).

**Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to take part in this debate on Bill C-95, to provide for Government operated pool systems on combinations of athletic contests and to amend certain sections of the Criminal Code and the Income Tax Act. The extent of the Bill is to establish the Canadian Sports Pool Corporation.

Once this corporation is in full swing, its net earnings will be paid to the Receiver General of Canada, another name for the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The Consolidated Revenue Fund will pay out funds in support of one or more of the activities such as art and culture, fitness and amateur sport, medical research, the 1988 Calgary Olympics and other worthy capital projects of national interest in those fields.

Bill C-95 will also amend Section 188 of the Criminal Code to allow the Government of Canada to operate and manage a pool system of betting, either alone or together with one or more of the Provinces. This Bill, Mr. Speaker, will also amend Section 40(2)(f) of the Income Tax Act so that neither gains nor losses from betting will affect taxation.

The Secretary of State (Mr. Joyal) has stated that \$200 million has been pledged to the 1988 Calgary Olympics, and he stated as well I believe that all this money would be coming from this proposed sports pool and from no other Government source.

However, the Secretary of State has failed to acknowledge that under the 1979 federal-provincial lotteries agreement there are funds available as well for the federal Government to assist not only the 1988 Calgary Olympics but international amateur sports events that take place in Canada. The Calgary Olympics is also assured funds from the sales of stamps and coins. So I say again that the Secretary of State should acknowledge such additional funds for Calgary in any further statements on this matter.

During the committee hearings, Mr. Speaker, there was considerable testimony given by interested groups on the pros and cons of this Bill. The race tracks of Canada were alarmed about the detrimental effect this Bill would have on track racing all across Canada. Evidence was presented to demonstrate the negative effect lotteries have had on horse racing