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HOW CANADA WILL HELP AMATEUR SPORT

The following is a partial text of a statement to the House of Commons on September 25 by Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, Minister of National Health and Welfare, in moving the second reading of Bill No. C-131, "to encourage fitness and amateur sport":

"...It is our view that the bill now before the House will offer an opportunity to achieve most of the things which have been advocated over the years by lay and professional leaders in the fields of fitness, recreation and amateur sport. But as I pointed out in speaking to the resolution, we would welcome any suggestions which would improve the programme as now envisaged. Even in its final form, this measure will no doubt have its shortcomings, which will become apparent as it comes into operation, and which will in all likelihood require amendments to be made from time to time in order to permit the achievement of its full intent.

A NEW DIMENSION

"Furthermore, we have recognized that the objectives of this programme cannot be attained in a vacuum. They can only be reached through the network of recreational programmes operated by public agencies as well as by the many non-governmental organizations devoted to fitness, and amateur sport. We hope that, with the full co-operation of professional leaders and volunteer workers, it will be possible to add a new dimension to these activities throughout Canada.

"I would like to pay a warm tribute to all those who for many years have been labouring actively in these fields. I hope they will regard this new legislation as the fulfilment of their faith and vision. For our expectation is that building on their efforts, this present initiative will furnish that new spark and that new dynamic leadership necessary to achieve a sound, broadly-based and sustained effort all across the country. It is this type of pattern which, unfortunately, in the past seems to have eluded our grasp.

EMPHASIS ON AMATEUR SPORT

"...Members will note that the legislation places considerable emphasis on assistance for amateur sport. We are all aware that, in the case of professional sport, revenues are considerable, stemming not only from paid admissions but also from various sources such as television and radio. Amateur sport, has unfortunately, lacked the same degree of support. This has meant inadequate financing of a whole range of amateur athletics as well as for programmes specifically designed for fitness. Obviously, further financial aid is urgently required if existing services for the development of fitness and amateur sports are to be strengthened and extended.

"Our new programme is aimed at fulfilling this requirement. With the assistance now proposed, it is possible to foresee a whole new development with respect to sports events supported by federal and provincial governments. We would hope, too, that

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