

*Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act***GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

ATHLETIC CONTESTS AND EVENTS POOLS ACT

MEASURE TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENT OPERATED POOL SYSTEMS

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-95, an Act to provide for Government operated pool systems on combination of athletic contests and events and to amend the Criminal Code and the Income Tax Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture; and motion No. 4 (Mr. Reid, St. Catharines).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Section (11) of Standing Order 79, the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

Hon. John Roberts (for the Minister of State (International Trade)) moved:

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 24 of the English version by striking out line 33 at page 10 and substituting the following therefor:

"its three following financial years."

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Mr. Speaker, I find it absolutely disgraceful that the Government has a motion on the Order Paper yet the Minister is not here to debate it. His Parliamentary Secretary is not here to debate it. In fact, there is not one person on the Government side to debate this motion so as to tell us what it is all about and why the Government is presenting it. I find it absolutely disgraceful. That is the interest the Liberal Government has in the parliamentary system and in a Bill that is before this House. I find it absolutely unforgiving that the Government presents motions and has no one in the House to handle them. The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Lamontagne) and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts) are here but neither of them knows what we are debating in the House; they do not have a clue. There is no one here, not even a Parliamentary Secretary, to discuss this Bill. I find it appalling.

We are debating a Bill which is an atrocious piece of legislation in the first place. It should not be before the House. To have no one from the Government side stand up and present the motion speaks of the Liberal Government, of the tired, old bunch that are over there. I know that the Canadian

people, whenever the Liberals get enough guts to call an election, will rid the country of this terrible outfit that has been trying to administer this country for the last 15 years.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say a few words because I feel as concerned as the Hon. Member for Brampton-Georgetown (Mr. McDermid) is that the Government has demonstrated a sort of cynicism with respect to this legislation that cannot go unnoticed. The Government is not prepared to stand up and tell us exactly why it feels this legislation should have priority.

It has been pointed out by myself and by my colleagues that there are in excess of two million Canadians unemployed, there are serious social and economic problems facing the nation, and with precious time in the House the Liberals' priorities seem to be to create a sports pool to give themselves an exception under the Criminal Code of Canada to get back into the sports gaming lottery business by virtue of this device. This is the nature of the Government's priorities. I think it is necessary for us to stand up and reiterate the reason the Government is doing this.

I want to conclude my few remarks by saying that those of us on this side of the House look forward with some substantial pride to the coming of the Winter Olympics in Calgary. I will be there, I am sure with hundreds of thousands of other Canadians, to cheer our Canadian Olympic team. I suggest that our national Government has a role to give financial assistance to this worth-while project, and I would support that. There is no question the Winter Olympics will be an event which will promote one of the most beautiful and challenging areas for recreation and athletic events that will be performed at the Olympics. But what this is all about and what this debate has been all about, before we get to the final vote, is really to question—and Parliament is a forum for questioning—the legislation of the Government to which there has been no response. It has been a pitiful display on the part of the Government. When an attempt has been made to have a dialogue and to get answers to what I think are legitimate answers, the Government sits mute, refusing to respond. It lets the matter go through by process of attrition because the fundamental question is the method and the means upon which the Government has chosen to raise \$200 million to give to the organizing committee.

When the Minister responsible for fitness and amateur sport accepted that responsibility, this particular sports pool was no part of the commitment on behalf of the people of Canada. I think all of us who watched the application made on behalf of Canada at Baden Baden were supportive and felt that the Government—I do not want to spend a lot of time commending the Government—was speaking on behalf of the people of Canada and saying that yes, the Government was prepared to support and important region of our country in its application to hold the Winter Olympics. But it now comes forward with this legislation, which is not restricted to supporting this