

Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act

view, untruths being told about the purposes behind this Bill. The reason, Mr. Speaker, is because it must be clear to all Members, particularly to the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre who prides himself on being an economist, that the whole idea of raising taxes through lotteries and through corporations that are not accountable to the Auditor General is wrong. The whole idea of creating spending programs that Parliament never sees in order to create situations for responsible officials to say to Parliamentarians "We do not know where the money went", is wrong. Surely the Member for Ottawa Centre and his backbench colleagues know that every single principle of decency and of good government indicates that the whole idea behind this Bill is wrong.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): May I point out to Hon. Members that debate is still continuing on motion No. 3, and of course there remains the matter of debate on motion No. 4 which the House will wish to dispose of. The Hon. Member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Wenman) on motion No. 3.

Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, we are speaking today about the distribution of funds. We are speaking about those who in fact will benefit from the funds and those who in fact will pay for the funds. In speaking to this particular motion, I think it is appropriate at this stage to remember that an idea has been presented in the form of the entire Bill and its individual parts. It has been discussed and debated in principle and in detail in committee, and now today we are discussing the beneficiary section.

I know from my experience of previous Olympics and from my political experience that the naming of beneficiaries in this Clause is only the broad title. The real beneficiaries of this Bill will be public relations companies and the media. We can be sure that a large portion of any moneys raised and given to this body or other bodies for this particular event will go to public relations firms and the media.

Another big chunk of the money will go to contractors, and again another big chunk of the money will go to bureaucracies. Another big chunk of the money will perhaps be used to exchange moneys from one level of government to another, because if this particular Bill is not passed, it means that a grant of some kind will have to be provided by the federal Government to the Government of Alberta as its share of the cost. It is another way of raising money to be transferred from one Government to another.

Hopefully there will be another beneficiary. A small pitance, perhaps, will in fact reach the level of the athlete who will perform and participate in the Olympics. Unfortunately, the first to deserve will probably be the last to receive, and probably the last to receive will receive the least, and that is in fact those same athletes.

Clause 3 of this Bill, Mr. Speaker, talks about the funding of the Olympics in Calgary. What are the Olympics in Calgary? I hope that we are directing this particular funding and perhaps additional funding from other levels of government to the Calgary Olympics for more than just buildings, contractors, bureaucracies and administration. I think a test of this

Bill is whether or not a good chunk of this money will be directed toward upholding the spirit of the Olympics.

In the spirit of the Olympics, I would hope to see some of this money transferred directly to the athletes.

What are the Olympics? The Olympics are athletes in the pursuit of excellence. Because it is a competitive pursuit of excellence, our athletes will be measured against those of other nations. We will not be measured by the size of the buildings. We will not be measured by the nature of the contracts. Canada's spirit and pursuit of excellence will be measured instead by the quality and the performance of our athletes and the relationship between our athletes and the athletes of the world.

This money needs to be directed not only to Calgary, to buildings, to contractors, but also to people, to individuals who are and will be the athletes. It is, of course, too late for that now because one does not travel across the country and identify an athlete this week and tell him that next month he will participate in the Olympics. The identification process is a process that is beginning now for the next Olympics that Canada will participate in, and not only the next Olympics but the Olympics after that. It is beginning not only with the Summer Olympics but the Winter Olympics and all of the Olympics. To create a body of sport in Canada, we must begin now to identify those who can pursue this excellence and represent our country. They must be identified at an early age.

I have heard no talk of money set aside for the identification of athletes. I hope that when the Minister stands up to speak on this Bill, he will talk about athletes, how this measure will affect athletes and how the money will help in the identification of athletes. For too many years we have failed to identify our athletes early enough to begin the training that is needed to instil in them the desire for the pursuit of excellence that will find them successful. Their success, the symbol and example of Canadian youth, strength and courage, will establish the desire of other young Canadians to pursue and obtain success and to represent their nation in this and other competitions that will come in the future.

These athletes must be identified at a very young, formative stage as muscles and minds are growing. So often people see competing at the Olympics as simply a physical activity. Competing at the Olympics is a physical activity, a mental activity, a nationalistic activity, and to be successful, a strong development of all of faculties is needed.

• (1600)

Those who strive for this excellence are not only striving for some physical achievement. By the time they reach the Olympics or that standard of training, it is a matter of the training of mind over body—mind and body united in a desire to find excellence, to be the best in Canada, the best in the world, to uphold our country and its image abroad. This requires not just an attitude of physical and mental competition but an attitude of friendship that is developed throughout the competition.