

Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act

I hope this Bill will quietly disappear and that Cabinet will reconsider its action. There is already \$34 million a year in rent coming to the federal Government because it got out of the lottery business under our Government. We produced revenue without expense to the federal Government. That is sufficient money to fund the Olympics, if that is the fund the Government wants to take it from.

More importantly, if this Bill were to proceed there certainly would not be any money available for at least a year. We are in an economic downturn with some small signs of recovery. Our economic prescription on this side of the House would be to accelerate public works projects and to stimulate the economy through the production of goods and services which last. May I suggest that the money that is to be spent on the Olympics in Calgary is for those kinds of facilities. It should be spent now. The projects should not have to wait. The Government should kill the Bill, sign a cheque and give the money to Calgary now so it can get on with the work and create some jobs, instead of hopes and dreams.

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Mr. Speaker, in relation to this motion by the Opposition, we must oppose the deletion of the portion of the clause they wish to delete because it provides the power to the Government, if necessary, to undertake other activities of this type. Let me give one example in that regard.

It has been stated by a number of Members who have spoken today that in return for the federal Government getting out of the field of Loto Canada, which was yielding \$80 million a year, we are now receiving something in excess of \$28 million a year from the Provinces. That money is divided evenly between culture and sport and all of it is being expended as it is received by the programs.

Since the Hon. Member for Edmonton North (Mr. Pappas) had misinformed himself on this subject and thought it was sitting in some mythical pot and not being used, I would suggest that any Hon. Members who wish to know what the actual situation is in this matter might refer to page 22588 of *Hansard* of February 7, where the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Smith), in answer to a written question, outlined exactly what had happened to all of those funds.

Be that as it may, those moneys are used as the money from Loto Canada would have been used for programs that exist in fitness and amateur sports and in culture and would not have been available and are not available for the purposes of a new program. They are committed, needed and are part of the ongoing expenditures of those departments. Indeed, if there is to be support for the Calgary Olympics, there must be a new source of support.

I wish to say that the reason we cannot agree to the deletion of this clause is that if, as has been suggested by the Hon. Member opposite, the Provinces stop sending that money as part of their agreement when we establish a sports pool, then there is no question that we would want the right immediately to go back into lotteries. Therefore we need that power.

I want it quite clearly understood that sports pools are different from lotteries. The establishment of sports pools does not break any agreement that may exist, and we question whether any agreement exists. If the Provinces do not send the money it would suit me fine, because Loto Canada or its equivalent would be re-established.

I would like to comment on the remarks of the Hon. Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes) on this motion. I hope that what has been said by the Hon. Member for Calgary West and how he said it has been noted by the people of Calgary. If we have ever seen anyone put up every kind of faulty argument against a project that is aimed at assisting his particular area, we have seen an example of it from the Member for Calgary West this afternoon. First, he says that the federal Government guaranteed \$200 million for the Olympics. The record clearly shows that we said we would provide money out of non-tax revenue. If the Hon. Member is suggesting, as one or two backbenchers over there suggested previously, that in the unlikely proposition that they came into power they would pay it out of general revenue, then let them say that publicly. I do not think that they will find public support for the use of tax dollars to that extent. The use of a sports pool is quite a different matter.

The Member for Calgary West complained that we said the Conservative Party was filibustering. We have said quite clearly that there was debate in the House on second reading of this Bill after it was introduced for first reading. It then went to committee where there were a number of long sessions involving much debate and many questions over a substantial period of time. When the Bill came back to the House, the Conservative Party would not agree to a time limitation, as is customary with most Bills of this type, in order to get it through and allow them to either vote for or against it, but at least permit democracy to operate and let a decision be made. If the Bill passes, this would also allow Calgary to begin to receive some benefit, as well as other organizations which would benefit from this cause.

The Hon. Member says they want to go ahead with this but it has failed in Quebec. It is strange that they and Reuben Baetz from Ontario who has the benefit of countless of millions of dollars for programs in Ontario because they have the lotteries that were given up by the previous Government, come before the committee and say that this will not be a success and should not be entered into. I have to question his reasoning when he says he actually feels that there may be an element of competition. The research we have undertaken has shown that sports pools appeal to a very different clientele than lotteries. Indeed, all the research in other countries indicate that as well. We chose this method, rather than returning to lotteries, to try to minimize the conflict with the Provinces.

I would have thought that a Member whose area was as interested or involved as that of the Hon. Member for Calgary West would have taken the trouble to do his homework before coming here to speak. He said that the Province of Quebec tried the sports pool and it failed. So would any lottery that a Province undertook if it tried it on the same basis that the