

Canadian Olympian, I resent such a stupid remark by the Minister.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jelinek: It is the Minister and the Liberal administration that are discrediting sport right across this country by continually tying it to gambling operations.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jelinek: Will the Minister do the honourable thing, terminate this phoney tax on the poor, a sports pool corporation which obviously is not working, and begin helping amateur sports in Canada by collecting funds in a more honourable way, such as I recommended to him personally in the past, through increased development fees by way of the private sector, and other honourable ways, and scrap this ill-fated nonsense?

[Translation]

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, considering that the Hon. Member is supposed to be quite familiar with amateur sport for having been an active and worthy participant in the past, I am surprised that he should be unaware that even the Canadian Olympic Association has censured the Opposition for its attempts to discredit sports pools, and that last week the COA issued a press release in favour of sports pools. So what happens to those people? Secondly, I must remind the House that this Government gave the most generous contribution and the strongest guarantee ever offered, so that Calgary would play host to the Olympic Games in 1988. It is also this Government which will pay the lion's share to send our athletes to Los Angeles. Our Government also played its part by creating programs to help amateur sports throughout Canada. I am surprised that a question should come from him, for in principle he ought not to repudiate his origins. On the contrary, he should try to make his colleagues understand that when he discredits the corporation, he also discredits amateur sports and, in so doing, he casts a slur upon our athletes. Our athletes deserve more respect, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

ALTERNATIVE SPORTS FINANCING

Mr. Otto Jelinek (Halton): Mr. Speaker, the Minister misunderstands what I am trying to say. I resent the fact, as do athletes, that the Government is continually tying gambling operations to sports. It should not be doing that. I want to explain to the Minister, if he does not understand it, and I do not think he does, that a lot of tax dollars are being spent on developing amateur athletes in this country and not enough of the development fees are coming back. In skating, for example, a lot of our skaters are trained in Canada at the expense of the taxpayer, and then go to the United States to perform in professional ice shows. Why are we not getting development fees from professional ice shows, professional tennis organiza-

tions, and right across the board? That is the way to collect money for amateur sport, and that is the way to help the Calgary Olympics.

[Translation]

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, I fail to understand the Hon. Member since Canadians are all in favour of Commonwealth Games, Canada Games, Pan-American Games or Olympic Games. But Hon. Members opposite always speak out against providing funds for amateur athletes. Those people deserve more respect, much more respect. We have assumed our responsibilities, Mr. Speaker, and we have set up programs for our athletes, the best in North America, because all we want is to encourage them to make a name for themselves on the international scene. We need money to do that, Mr. Speaker. Members opposite are first when it comes to denying the fact that a Canadian Government anxious to promote international competition has the right to seek funds willingly given by people who respect a law passed by the Canadian Government. That is one field where you rank first.

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● (1500)

[English]

ENERGY

FEDERAL AGREEMENT WITH NOVA SCOTIA—DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I would like to switch from dealing with one sleaze-bag situation to dealing with another. Were federal negotiators, including the Minister of Energy and the present Minister of Finance, instructed by the Government to tell the Newfoundland Government that the Nova Scotia offshore agreement signed in March, 1982, was complete as described, while in fact there was a secret clause that gave the Province of Nova Scotia certain special rights with regard to equalization? Were the Ministers instructed to misinform the Newfoundland Government, or did they lie to the Newfoundland Government on their own hook?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do know that exactly the same type of deal was offered to Newfoundland as that which was offered to Nova Scotia. That deal was the same, including any agreements which are made between the Governments and including any written or verbal instructions. In so far as the details of it are concerned, I would have to ascertain them from the Minister.

Certainly nothing was offered to Nova Scotia by way of revenues or by way of equalization treatment which was not also offered to Newfoundland. Therefore, it would seem to me that the Hon. Member's language was a bit excessive when he spoke of lying. I do not know if he was talking about his