

**Mr. Marchi:** The Hon. Member for Nipissing (Mr. Mantha) asks about the hockey team. We all know that Moe is a great hockey player but we are talking about soccer at the moment.

Before the Minister rose on his point of order, I was about to say that other countries are supporting their national teams. They do this directly through the funding of national sports federations and also indirectly through lotteries. Some of the proceeds from these lotteries are channelled into the sporting community.

The problem with our present system is that the sporting federations are not permitted to give moneys to teams which may be classified as professional. I believe we should adopt a more progressive, moderate and contemporary approach in dealing with our teams and athletes because, frankly, the situation facing our national soccer team, as a reflection of what is happening to other bodies in this country, is undignified.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is supposed to televise 42 of the 50 games to take place in Mexico. It will televise all three Canadian games in the first round. In order to perform well, we cannot simply rely on the good heart of the soccer players. We must rally behind the sporting community and this team in particular, and while providing that moral support we must also recognize that they must be trained properly in order to be competitive with the other countries.

● (1550)

Let us not take a back seat to anyone. Let us go to Mexico and expect to do well on the field. Let us go with the other teams from other countries and let us not be a laughing stock or an embarrassment in the way we treat our players and teams. Not many countries, even those less well off, treat their players and teams in the kind of a degrading manner.

I highlight that in trying to illustrate to this House and the Minister that the whole concept of federal lotteries and a federal sports pool should not be shunned or cast off quickly to appease provincial Governments. Yes, we should be at peace with our provincial Governments but we should also be doing things that will fulfil, be effective and positive for the national will. If there is a national will to see a national sports mechanism that will function and do honour to our athletes, then we need to fulfil it whether or not the provincial Governments like it. There is no guarantee in this legislation that moneys generated now or in the future to aid sports organizations and national sports teams will be fulfilled. That is the irony of this Bill. That is the irony of this Minister who is speaking on behalf of his colleague, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie). It is fine to look at the Bill from a legal point of view, but the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Jelinek) also has a sports constituency to defend. He should be defending the principles that are not in this Bill but should be.

The Government has said: "We are getting out of the lottery business and out of the sports pool business. We are shipping that business to the provincial Governments and they will be

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happy". That is not good enough, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Justice can get up and do that because he may not be sensitive to the intricacies of the sporting community but the Minister of Sports should be sensitive and probably is because he comes from that milieu. Therefore, I am somewhat surprised that the sporting community has been abandoned in the lotteries debate. We should not simply see the lotteries as evil and dark things. If they are run properly and if they can generate funds that can be donated to sports organizations without draining the Treasury, what is wrong with that? Around the world we see sports organizations benefiting from the resources that can be drawn upon from sports pools or lotteries.

We should be relooking and rethinking, although it might be a touch too late, at what this Government is doing. There should be a commitment at least from the provinces that, if they are to run the lotteries, some of the moneys intended to assist the sporting community will still be met. I have my doubts about that, Mr. Speaker. It is an unfortunate circumstance for our sporting community. It might be a victory in the Government's eyes for federal-provincial relations but I think that, to a certain degree, it is a cop-out to regional or provincial whims at the detriment of what should be a central and a national vision in this legislation.

We should be thinking not only about the Olympics in Calgary—which this Party, this Parliament and every single Member will rally around and do everything to make it the best Olympics ever—but also we should be talking philosophically about the move we have just made. Just because there has been a unanimous agreement to send this Bill forth in one day we should not laugh it off because there are serious repercussions and a philosophical bent undermining it. A national lottery, sports pool, or call it what you will, to aid sports groups and national professional teams is not wrong.

I hope somehow we can derive commitments from provincial Governments. They will now have a virtual monopoly on the lottery business. If the federal Government says it is wrong to be in the lottery business, why is it right for the provincial Government to be in the lottery business? If you disagree with lotteries, let us make lotteries illegal. We are saying somehow that lotteries are wrong, yet provincial Governments are able to run them.

There are some very serious inconsistencies in the Bill which displease me and I am sure they displease the sporting community. It was hopeful that some guarantee of funds, if lotteries are to exist and be permitted in Canada, would be made. That is not the case here, and I regret it very much.

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to join in the debate on this Bill. It is a privilege because the critic in my caucus for fitness and amateur sport, to which this Bill relates, is my colleague, the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan (Mr. Angus). Illness has confined my friend to his home in the riding. Consequently, this afternoon, as the person in our caucus who spoke to the sports pool wind-up Bill a year ago less two days, I have the opportunity to speak for our caucus as the first speaker with regard to this