

Introduction of Bills

[English]

Mr. Cullen: Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration, but perhaps I will ask it on Monday.

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SPORTS

DISBURSING OF FUNDS FROM LOTTERIES

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North): Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister of sport. I think he is still the minister of sport, though we have not seen him here for about a week. It is my understanding that the sport department is virtually bankrupt, and the cultural and artistic communities seriously require money for symphonies and little theatres.

Would the minister advise the House whether he is going to deposit the provincial government cheque he has received from the lotteries and disburse the funds accordingly? Since he is going to be getting another cheque on June 29 which will amount to \$12 million, plus the incremental \$250,000, will he please see that these communities get the moneys accordingly?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his keen interest in the financial welfare of sport in this country, though I think sport would have been in a much better situation financially if he had not become party to the most disastrous piece of negotiation since the Brooklyn Bridge was sold.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Regan: I want to remind the hon. member that Loto Canada was netting \$80 million a year, and he became a party with two other ministers in signing an incomplete agreement that has no time limit at all—so it may not be an agreement at all—whereby he gave away Loto Canada to the provinces and in return we received \$24 million. That is a great piece of bargaining. I would say! If we are in any difficulty in relation to the flow of cash at the moment—

An hon. Member: You cut it all off.

Mr. Regan:—in supporting athletic events in this country, then I say the responsibility lies very close to the hon. gentleman who is asking the questions.

An hon. Member: Of the \$24 million, you haven't spent a nickel. You cut everybody off and that is giving them concern.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING DEFINITION OF "AMATEUR SPORT" AND "FITNESS"

Mr. W. Kenneth Robinson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-607, to amend the Fitness and Amateur Sport Act (definition of amateur sport and fitness).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Robinson (Etobicoke-Lakeshore): Madam Speaker, the present act and regulations thereunder unduly restrict governmental encouragement of fitness and amateur sport in Canada to athletic activity, which connotes physical exertion as opposed to mental skill. Activities combining mental skill with a degree of physical effort should be included within the ambit of the act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 155, 208, 255, 771, 819, 820, 894 and 896.

I would ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

MAJOR GENERAL DONALD McNICHOL

Question No. 155—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Is the government aware that Major General Donald McNichol, Commander of Canada's Air Defence Group, was quoted in news reports on Thursday, March 27, 1980 to the effect, that a war with the Soviet Union seems imminent and, if so, does this represent the policy approach of the government and, if not, does the government intend to ask Major General McNichol for full information illustrating his conclusion?

2. Is the government aware that Major General McNichol was quoted in part as saying that "our air defence system is at least 25 years old. We're working in the 1980s with 1950 equipment" and, if so, does such a statement represent government policy and what steps will the government take to update equipment for the Armed Forces?

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): 1. The government is aware of the news reports which quoted Major General McNichol. Neither the government nor the Department of National Defence believe that a war with the Soviet Union is imminent. The