

Criminal Code

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Government House Leader has indicated citations in support of his position. I am aware of those citations, and I was aware of them when I submitted the motion for consideration to the House. I feel obliged to stand to speak to the matter. I want to indicate very briefly that I had expected the Government would be anxious to provide this information, in light of the circumstances that were raised in my point of order, not only because of the seriousness of the allegation but because of the—

Mr. Charest: Point of order.

Mr. Milliken: I am on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Charest: Just to make it very clear, the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands has admitted that he produced this Notice of Motion quite clearly knowing that it was not acceptable. The rules in Beauchesne are quite clear. It is also clear, and the Hon. Member has said that he knows the reference in the rules very well, that such Notices of Motions are not amendable, neither are they debatable.

Mr. Milliken: Mr. Speaker, if the Minister could have contained himself he would have been aware that I was not in fact debating the motion. What I was saying was I thought the Government would have been anxious to table the documents in order to not only provide some evidence to back up the position it has taken, but to assist the Chair in dealing with the question of privilege that was raised in this House last week, and which is under consideration at this time by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Charest: That is a little pretentious.

Mr. Milliken: I thought the Government would be anxious to help. I realize the Deputy Government House Leader thinks that this is pretentious, but I think it is a serious matter. I think he might have given more consideration to it. In light of that, I am prepared to withdraw the notice at this time because I recognize that it may not, and I say may not, be in accordance with the rules.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed that Motion No. P-3 be withdrawn?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture) moved that Bill C-7, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (pari-mutuel betting), be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this afternoon for second reading Bill C-7, which provides for changes in legislation governing pari-mutuel betting in this country. This legislation was introduced in the last Parliament, and it subsequently died on the Order Paper. It was preceded by a discussion paper which was circulated by Agriculture Canada, which outlined in broad detail the proposal.

This document was circulated in a very broad way for industry and for the public to respond to. I must say that there was broad industry support for this proposal, and indeed very little objection at that particular time. I think it is important that the Bill be proceeded with some degree of urgency. I hope that I have the co-operation and the support of all Hon. Members in seeing that this legislation is passed through in an expeditious fashion.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: As Hon. Members may be aware, the racing industry is suffering some difficulties. Bill C-7 offers a way to support this very important sector of the Canadian economy. I intend to deal with some of the difficulties that the racing industry is facing in Canada.

The proposed changes to Section 204 of the Criminal Code will permit pari-mutuel betting on horse races viewed in theatres, owned or leased by acting associations. Such theatres would have to be licensed by the appropriate provincial authority. The intent of the legislation is to provide the racing industry with a new marketing opportunity. It will help broaden the industry's economic base, which has been shrinking by increased competition from other forms of entertainment and wagering dollars. The jobs that are associated with this industry are very important.