

Private Members' Business

relations, that does not have to happen. There are hundreds of thousands of grievances that take place in the work world. Virtually all of them are decided quickly. Often the representative of the employer has barely realized that a mistake has been made. But that has, nonetheless, been felt to be a grievance by the subject employee.

In this case, the very existence of the system will act to encourage those in positions of authority in the sports world to be fair in dealing with the athletes and coaches involved.

We can easily foresee a system which will permit a quick and immediate resolution of issues which need a quick and immediate resolution, all short, I may say, of telephone judges in the middle of a day.

We can have systems which will mean that there can be a quick interim decision followed eventually by a more careful and thorough examination of the facts, and where possible, a remedy that can be applied.

It should also be necessary, as part of this regime, that the government through Sports Canada should be educating sports organizations and those involved in the system of the kind of rights athletes and coaches should have.

I hope the government members will not see fit to talk this bill out. It is an important matter to thousands of Canadians. It is nothing that is finally binding on the government, it merely asks the government to consider this proposal. We are already looking at this in the subcommittee on Fitness and Amateur Sport and will be making recommendations on this issue to the government. We would be assisted by the general views of this House as to the advisability of an independent review. We are really simply asking the House to endorse the recommendations of the Dubin Inquiry and to pass judgment that this is a sound and fitting idea.

The relevance of the idea can be seen in a case that has already come before our committee, and that is the case of Andrezej Kulesza, the weightlifting coach who felt thoroughly abused by the findings and report of the Dubin Inquiry with respect to his case. He may be right or he may be wrong, as he appeared before the committee, he had a deep sense of grievance at the treatment he felt he had received. Our committee was unanimous in asking the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, as perhaps a first and test case, to accept the

Dubin approach in his case, which was to establish his right to appeal this to an independent arbitrator. Therefore, we have already a specific and active case, and if the House could endorse the motion I have put before it, would assist in a fair and just resolution of this.

In the Dubin report there are many eloquent statements of great as to the role of sport in our society. I would like to refer the House to the following, on page 499 of the report. At the beginning of the chapter, "Ethics and Morality in Sport", Commissioner Dubin says this:

We look to sport to build character, to teach the virtues of dedication, perseverance, endurance and self-discipline. Sport helps us to learn from defeat as much as from victory, and team sports foster a spirit of co-operation and interdependence. We look to sport to impart something of moral and social values and, in integrating us as individuals, to bring about a healthy, integrated society.

Mr. Speaker, one of the fundamental rights in our society afforded to employees in every aspect of our national life is the right of association, the right to the protection of collective bargaining. That right is not afforded to athletes.

I submit this House has an obligation, as does the government, to see that one of the most fundamental elements of justice in the workplace, and in this case, justice in the field of sport, be afforded to our young Canadians, that is the right to have their grievances fairly and impartially determined.

I would call on the House to unanimously endorse the motion before you.

Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, as has been so abundantly demonstrated on occasions, you are far more fit than I.

I am pleased, Sir, to participate today in the debate on the motion put forward by my friend for Victoria. The hon. member plays an active role in the parliamentary subcommittee and his views are of great interest and concern to the government.

[*Translation*]

As hon. members know, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada was pleased to receive the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the use of drugs and banned practices intended to increase athletic performance—better known as the Dubin Report—which the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport tabled in the House last June 27.