

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

play, nor has his junior club any redress with regard to the recompense for producing him. All this is reprehensible enough; but when I consider that 31 of the professional teams in hockey are in the United States and only four are in Canada I react with even greater shock. Canadian junior teams and Canada youngsters are being recruited for the masters of the Coliseums in the United States, to reap profits for them and another government and bringing back little or nothing to Canada. It is small wonder that many of the Junior A operators in Canada feel their days may be numbered. Indeed, many have already rebelled and have quit the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association.

• (10:10 p.m.)

In western Canada a new hockey association was formed this year called the Canadian Hockey Association. Because it refused to go along with this new version of serfdom these clubs were declared outlaw by the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and now exist in a form of limbo. But do you think for one moment that the better players on these teams won't be drafted this June by the N.H.L. or other pro teams? They will be absolved of their sins as soon as they are drafted.

Last year, and this year, each Junior A team was given \$9,000 out of moneys paid to the C.A.H.A., but this amount is to be lowered and, as I am given to understand, gradually phased out altogether. Then there will be only the \$3,000 for each player drafted.

The plan is so fantastically ingenious and inexpensive that one of the new N.H.L. owners, when appraised that his share for future talent was a mere \$40,000 a year, was astounded. He suggested that the figure wouldn't even pay for a scout's entertainment expenses in baseball.

At one time it cost the six N.H.L. teams about \$100,000 on the average each year to maintain farm systems. On that basis the pros should today be putting at least \$1,200,000 back into amateur hockey. But how much are they investing? A mere \$550,000, of which each N.H.L. team puts up about \$40,000. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that even the old slave ships didn't have a margin of profit like that.

Recent years have seen the decline of hockey in Canada, both in number of leagues as well as clubs. Today, outside of the four professional teams, only the top Junior A clubs appear to be keeping the sport going

economically. But how long can these people keep going in the face of rising costs, little or no help in producing or developing players, and no one to share the risk? Even the C.A.H.A., which has the fantastic gall not only to give the orders with no personal investment whatsoever, but to extract a percentage of their profits as well, will not be able to keep going.

Justice, Mr. Speaker, was once described by Cicero in *De Officiis*, as indispensable for the conduct of business. He also wrote that good faith is the foundation of justice. But do we have justice here? If there is it is heavily weighted in one direction.

This is no mere plea for a few Junior A clubs. It is a plea for all those who work in amateur hockey in Canada; the men, the boys who become the Bobby Hulls and the Bobby Orrs. It is also a plea for a better share of the fantastic profits which are now accruing to hockey from television and the result of expansion to the United States. Perhaps Canada can't charge for the snow it exports to the United States, but we can and should charge for the players we develop.

There is now an investigation taking place of amateur sport in Canada. If the minister had people assigned to this task force who know the difference between a jock strap and a pair of ear muffs, then perhaps the arrangement between the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and the N.H.L. would be highest on its list of priorities. Right next to that should be the nefarious draft of underage junior players.

[Translation]

Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of his remarks, the hon. member for Edmonton-Centre (Mr. Paproski) said that if the minister were more interested in this serious problem, he would be in the house.

I think the hon. member will admit that the minister's absence is clearly justified, since he is discharging his duties as chairman and host at the federal-provincial conference on welfare now under way.

In addition, I would like to quote the words of a poet: "On old tunes, let us sing new songs", because I answered a similar question from the hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. Gibson) on December 16 last.

Perhaps the hon. member would be well advised to refer to the speech delivered by the minister in Moncton on November 23,