

S.O. 21

ball franchise by promoting and pursuing its questionable sports pool.

Major league baseball has deep, well founded concerns about gambling. So should the Canadian Government, but instead it continues to gamble with B.C.'s prospects for a major league baseball franchise.

Its actions raise deep questions about what the Government's priorities are. Its priority does not seem to be sport. It does not seem to be economic stimulus for B.C. which is sorely needed. Rather, its priorities seem to be a regressive tax and Liberal patronage, jobs funded by those least able to pay.

In British Columbia the Sports Pool Corporation hired Lauris Talmey, President of the Liberals' National Women's Commission, as its general manager; Bev Hendrickson, executive assistant to Senator Jack Austin, as its B.C. manager of administration, and Ian Howard, whose company handles the marketing and promotion for the B.C. Sports Pool, was the Liberal Party's public relations director.

Betting in the Sports Pool is a poor investment, as the laws of probability and statistics clearly demonstrate, for everyone but the Liberals who get the jobs. Instead of creating jobs and real hope for Canadians, it only provides another chance for the gritty piglets to eat at the Liberal trough.

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VIA RAIL

CALL FOR RESTORATION OF SERVICE BETWEEN EDMONTON
AND VANCOUVER

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, many western Canadians and western municipalities have appealed to the Minister of Transport to put VIA Rail back on track between Edmonton and Vancouver. This passenger service, which is part of the transcontinental railway system, should never have been reduced in 1981. It must be restored and modernized so that increasing numbers of tourists will join western Canadians to enjoy this practical mode of transportation through the glorious, scenic splendour of the Canadian Rockies and Jasper National Park. Full passenger rail service must be restored in time for Expo '86.

A modernized VIA Rail passenger service from Edmonton to Vancouver will demonstrate the many values of this practical and enjoyable mode of transportation. Trains save more energy, have fewer environmental impacts, are safer and more reliable than other modes of transportation. There is no jet lag and no flat tires. There are both economic and social benefits in creating jobs and serving communities.

Western Canadians deserve the same opportunity for train travel as those who use VIA Rail in the Golden Horseshoe. Restoration of western services is a national responsibility and must be a priority of the Minister of Transport. Canadians are tired of past subsidies to CN and CP and their lack of accountability. The history of CP rip-offs is a national disgrace.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member's time has expired.

HEALTH CARE

ADMISSION OF CANADIAN MEDICAL SPECIALISTS TO UNITED
STATES

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the threat of Canadian physicians emigrating to the United States was ever present during the deliberations on the Canada Health Act on the grounds that many physicians would move away from a medical system which they felt curbed their independence and impeded their ability to practise their art under optimum conditions. It is too early to judge the extent of this resettlement. It appears that it is small in number to date.

But there is some evidence already that some prominent Canadian medical specialists, many of whom have gained international reputations by innovating new techniques, have left, or are planning to leave Canada. For these internationally recognized leaders, the United States Department of Immigration makes special provisions, granting them a blanket certification, and admits them under a subcategory of third preference. The number of these Canadian physicians moving to the United States is not great, but the loss to the development of state of the art medicine in Canada is quite considerable. These specialists have been stimulating teachers and have provided an exceptional quality of medical care.

The problem is a serious one. It must be addressed by a committee of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, by representatives of the Department of National Health and Welfare, and by the Canadian Medical Association, in order to stem the brain drain of medical excellence from this country.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PERSIAN GULF—IRAQ-IRAN WAR—CANADIAN POSITION

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. With the increasingly troublesome situation in the Persian Gulf, would the Prime Minister indicate if the Government is prepared to make a statement to the House concerning this situation, and could he outline if the Government plans to take any specific action to try to resolve this terrible, alarming conflict? We know that there was support for the United Nations Resolution 540 last October on behalf of the people of Canada, but is anything new being contemplated to try to resolve this situation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the situation in the Gulf is one which is certainly very serious and to which the Government has been giving constant attention. There is no statement planned at this time.