Oral Questions

[English]

Mr. Murphy: The quote obviously suggests that he is more concerned with politics than with the lives of workers.

STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, let me point out the history. It took over four years for the Liberal Government to introduce this Bill in the House. It took another month before debate on the legislation was started. It took another week before the Minister would even appear before the committee. That leaves us with less than two weeks to pass the legislation. We also know that this legislation is not on the Government's priority list. With those facts, why should the workers of Canada believe that the Liberal Government cares one iota for their lives, their safety, or for the health of unborn children of women workers?

• (1450)

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, if we consider the work done by Parliament in the last few years and the last few months, it is clear that both the Progressive Conservative Opposition and the New Democratic Party have systematically held up the business of Parliament. Remember the bells. Remember the endless delay involved in adopting major bills involving the patriation of the Constitution and energy measures, and even now, the New Democratic Party is holding up the Security Bill. Mr. Speaker, if the NDP had any sense at all, it would let my colleague's Bill be adopted in the House and we could then proceed with the legislation for protection of workers.

[English]

POOLS

CANADA SPORTS POOL CORPORATION—PROJECTED FUNDING FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport. One of the issues that he used to bring some credibility to the ill-conceived sports pool was medical research. From his present projections, how much money will be given to medical research from the sports pool?

[Translation]

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, as provided for in the legislation approved by this House, our commitment is very clear, that is to provide assistance to the Calgary Olympics in the amount of \$200 million and to subsidize the arts, culture and medical research. Depending on the revenue produced by the sports pool, this money will be distributed equitably, and in addition,

we shall first discharge our commitment with respect to the Calgary Olympics.

[English]

REQUEST THAT HIRING CONTRACTS BE TABLED

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, obviously there is no money for medical research because the Minister is losing money on the sports pool. It is incredible that this Government can run a lottery and even lose money on that. Does the Minister now agree with the chairman of the Medical Research Council of Canada that they are not expecting any money or planning on any money because they know they will not get any money? I would like the Minister to confirm that. Also, will he table for us the names of people who were hired by the sports pool and, in particular, the contracts of service?

[Translation]

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, let me simply remind the Hon. Member opposite that this Government has already committed \$170 million to medical research. He said we are doing nothing for medical research, but I have given him an example of what we are doing.

Second, we have already allocated this year \$17 million from the revenue produced to arts and culture. Before claiming that there will be no money left for these activities, the Hon. Member should perhaps do his research properly!

Third, what I want to say once again is that the Members opposite are trying to destroy the credibility of the sports pool by saying there is pork barrelling and that the organization employs only friends of the party in power. I shall simply refer them to the press release published last week by the Chairman of the Canada Sports Pool Corporation wherein he describes at length how the 90 permanent staff members of the Canada Sports Pool Corporation were hired and interviewed and how the other 300 casual workers were hired following advertisements placed in newspapers. All this information was very clear and specific, and the problem is that the Members opposite do not want to understand and are refusing to tell the truth in order to gain political points even though they are systematically denying amateur sport the right to survive in Canada on a national level. Simply said, what they want is to give back to their provincial friends all the commitments and the net income of \$500 million they can obtain through lotteries, while, for our part, we do not have any lotteries, just a sports pool!

[English]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER TERMINATE POOL OPERATIONS

Mr. Otto Jelinek (Halton): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport. The Minister said a few minutes ago that the Conservative Party was discrediting amateur sports in Canada. As a former