

Over time most cultures have developed a tradition of having little wagers as to which horse is going to be the fastest, just as often happens with any competition. This has probably been more prevalent in horse racing than in many other sports. Horse racing has probably taken wagering to greater heights than a lot of other sports in that it has always attempted to keep the wagering above board and legal.

As we all know, some of the small country tracks do not permit pari-mutuel betting. The wagering still goes on for nickels and dimes and sometimes fairly large paper money, but it is always done between individuals or small groups of individuals to add to the spice of each particular race.

A few years ago, the Government introduced changes to the pari-mutuel betting Bill which would permit the use of the teletheatre as a means of extending the racing season and making it possible for people to observe races outside the country and to place bets in those tele-theatres. For those for whom the betting is very important, this permits them to be involved a little more in races such as the Kentucky Derby, some of the big stake breeders' cup races, the Breeders' Crown, and the standard bred side.

Of the 18 tracks that permit betting on foreign races, last year \$10.4 million was bet on foreign races which was a 34.4 per cent increase over 1987. That aspect of the tele-betting is just beginning to start. People are just beginning to remember that there are tele-betting shops for foreign racing and are beginning to take advantage of it. The implication to the racing industry of the expansion of the types of betting possible is such that it means larger amounts of money for the racehorse owners who do share in the revenue from the betting, both in tele-betting and in regular betting at the tracks. So this permits them to eventually have larger purses, and in fact that seems to be happening to some extent. We note that last year the gross purses available under the licensed tracks in Canada went up from \$159 million or thereabouts in 1987 to \$178 million in 1988, an increase of almost 12 per cent.

So it has increased the revenue to the racing industry and permits more purses and larger purses so that the owners of the race horses can have more funds available to them for expansion of their industry. This industry has very few other places to go. As I say, it is very large in the entertainment field in terms of attracting a lot of

spectators. In this day and age about the only expansion that they can make is to big screen television.

They have done a reasonably good job of getting horse racing included in our national sporting events. Though, to be fair, CBC, CTV, the national networks only carry a very few races in the course of their sports broadcasting during a year. They carry the Queen's Plate, the Kentucky Derby and only a few other races on an annual basis. It is not attracting the attention of the television networks that *Hockey Night in Canada* does, or some of those kinds of television spectaculars. As a result, the opportunity for the racing fraternity to get into commercialization or the advertising that might accrue from more televised broadcasting of their races, has been more or less cut off from them. So they have retaliated and responded by making proposals to extend the season for particular race tracks by going to television betting, so that people can go out to the track, have a meal or a drink, do some visiting and place bets right through to the last races in the season.

We are told that this gives opportunities for tracks, particularly in the more sparsely-settled parts of the country, to extend the season. For instance, in my area the racing season could begin at Lloydminster with television showing in Saskatoon and Regina. Followers of the races could begin by following the season on television in Saskatoon and Regina, watch the races in Lloydminster and, as the horse owners shift into Saskatoon and end up in Regina, the televised section could go back to the cities that no longer have the live races. This could extend the betting season for the general public. It gives an opportunity for increased revenues for the participants and horse owners.

This is an era when some parts of the country are having difficulty maintaining economic viability. You only have to go through the racing figures to see that those provinces that are having the most economic pressure are having it reflected in the take at the tracks. For instance, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia have been under some economic pressure. It is no surprise that the amount of betting being done at tracks in those provinces went down slightly last year, reflecting that. So there has been economic pressure put on the racing industry from competition, from the general downturn in the economy for some of them and competition for leisure dollars which race track owners are hoping to be able to offset with the move into more televised betting and the use of the telephone into those betting stations.

Criminal Code