

*Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act*

productivity; in fact it has discouraged people from being productive. This is the tragedy and the kind of thing which shows up in the very bankrupt policies of the Government.

Also I am concerned about the fact that the Government seems to have no idea about the value of money or what kind of priority it should place upon spending. For example, Canadair lost \$1.4 billion in the last fiscal year. It could have been used to erect dome stadiums in 14 cities across the country. A dome stadium with 40,000 seats can be erected for approximately \$100,000. This means that for the \$1.4 billion which Canadair lost in one year, 14 Canadian cities could have 40,000-seat dome stadiums. When we think about the jobs that that would create and the additional economic activity that would engender, we realize that it would be a tremendous boost.

The Government is asking for additional funds for things which it really believes are legitimate. It makes me wonder where the Government's priorities are or whether it really has any. As has already been indicated, I suspect its priorities are upside down.

I have another area of concern about the Bill, that is, the possibility of abuse of the money raised on behalf of Canadians in this fashion. We have already heard some of the figures this evening. For example, in 1977-78 Loto Canada spent \$273,000 on furniture. The next year it spent \$402,000 on furniture. Normally when such an operation is set up, some capital expenditures are incurred in the first year and in subsequent years the figure goes down. When we see the way money has been spent in the past, money raised in a similar fashion, we really wonder where some of it goes. This again brings to mind some of the troughing that goes on. People are now accustomed to being at the trough. In my part of the country we say that they are in there with their snouts. I think the Government has set a new record. Not only is it in there with its snout; it is in there with its two front feet.

Again I say that there is no incentive for anyone to spend this money wisely because it is not one's own money that will be spent. We all know that if one is not involved in life and does not risk one's capital, it is very easy to be callous and careless with someone else's money. That is my concern with money raised in this fashion.

There are many areas with which I would like to deal, but ten minutes is a very short period of time. One must wonder whether this is the best way in which to recirculate money in the economy. There is such a thing as the multiplier effect. If the Government sat down to look at its priorities, would it believe that this is the best way to collect taxes and to redistribute them through the economy to get the best multiplier effect? It is simply a form of taxation. It is regressive taxation. It is money being taken away from people who in many cases can least afford it. I am sure it will be redistributed in such a way that it will not provide the best multiplier effect in the economy.

In terms of the odds available for people winning some of these moneys, I have heard figures quoted by mathematicians and physicists which indicate that we have about as much

chance winning some of these lotteries as we have of being struck by lightning twice. When people buy these lottery tickets, they are not thinking of those kinds of things. They are told that the money they are donating on behalf of the lottery will be used for arts and culture, fitness and amateur sport and medical and health research. These are the kinds of things which concern me when I think about where we are going and why we need this Bill in front of us in the first place.

There are many other Members who want to speak on this Bill. I could make many more comments, but in closing I urge the Government to look seriously at this amendment so that, if we are to have this kind of Bill or law, it will be limited in the damage it will do to the Canadian economy. It should be directed solely at the Calgary Olympics so that once they are over we will not have to put up with this kind of nonsense any longer.

**Mr. Chuck Cook (North Vancouver-Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, I find myself in a strange position because I will take a slightly different tact in connection with this amendment as well as the entire Bill. I have listened to many of my learned friends give rather brilliant speeches on the subject and, quite frankly, it is not often that I find myself in concurrence with religious elements.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Cook:** That was not meant to be funny but it is true. For example, I find absolutely nothing wrong with a bingo game in a church basement. I find nothing wrong with a friendly game of poker with six or seven people who do not play as well as I do. I think I have made other statements dealing with the sport of kings, horse racing, where of course there is a gamble. Gambling by itself does not necessarily have to be sinful, but what we are looking at here is not gambling. We are looking at confiscation and fraudulent activity. We are looking at the national Government of Canada wanting to set up another lottery and being prepared to spend, chances are—it spent \$10 million in one year, \$13 million in another year—\$15 million anyway purely on advertising this lottery to convince the poor sucker out there that he has a chance. It will take his money and return nothing. Let us face it, only about 49 per cent goes to those who buy tickets, even with the best lotteries. Certainly it would raise some money; how much is yet to be determined. Perhaps that native shrewdness that enables the public to survive may finally wise up and realize that with the kind of odds you get in a lottery, it simply does not make sense to buy a ticket.

• (2240)

With the exception of Ontario, the average person in this country spends \$30 a year on lotteries. They are two, three or four people in the average family. A couple spends \$60 a year on lottery tickets for which they receive absolutely nothing except a dream, a dream that lasts only until the numbers are called. That \$60 could be spent in any number of things such as recreation or reading. I am amazed that the motion picture