

gets from the adult population of Canada in general.

Hon. L. M. Gouin: Honourable senators, I should like to say just a few words on behalf of those people who, like myself, have never been and have no hope of becoming champions. I have listened with the greatest interest to the excellent address delivered by the honourable senator from North York (Hon. Mr. Sullivan), and I wish to congratulate him most sincerely. He has spoken as a great medical authority, with sincerity and eloquence. He fully realizes the importance, and I would say in a certain sense the tragic importance, of physical fitness.

I have listened with much attention to the remarks of my leader (Hon. Mr. Macdonald, Brantford) and of the honourable senator from Alma (Hon. Mr. Molson) who has just spoken, and I would like now to speak on behalf of a class which is not as interesting as others. This will be in the nature of a public confession because, honourable senators, physically speaking, I have always been much below par. When I was at school I could not take any active part in sports such as hockey, baseball and lacrosse because they were organized for those who were, so to speak, the best. I was as anxious as anybody else to do something physical, but practically all I was able to do was a little skating—and it was not figure skating, by the way. I also did some walking, and such things as that. There are many other people in that class.

I have always had trouble with my eyes, and because of that I cannot play tennis. I cannot see the ball until it is within five feet of my eyes, and when I do try to play tennis and the ball strikes my nose then everybody, especially my grandchildren, are amused. I used to play a little golf and I enjoyed horse-back riding and skiing, but because I suffered from varicose veins I had to abandon riding and skiing.

A large proportion of the pupils in our colleges and schools are in the same miserable class as myself, and they must be given a chance of partaking in physical culture and engaging in sports which are not as strenuous as those participated in by others. People who suffer from heart disease, for instance, can do a little exercise. Finally I found a coach who taught me to participate in physical culture, but I had to do much of it on the floor, which was not very exciting.

On the whole I am not an interesting case, but I speak on behalf of the thousands of Canadian boys and girls who are in the same class as myself, and who should be given some kind of opportunity of engaging in sports to the extent of their capabilities. It is my hope that those who will take an active part in organizing the facilities provided by this bill

will realize that we must try to obtain the maximum physical development of even those people who have no hope whatever of becoming champions. I thought it was my duty, honourable senators, to plead my own case and also that of others who are in the same category.

Hon. William M. Wall: Honourable senators, I should like to welcome this legislative proposal to permit national involvement in physical fitness and the promotion of amateur sports. By it, as has been so ably explained by the honourable senator from North York (Hon. Mr. Sullivan) and the honourable senator from Alma (Hon. Mr. Molson), the Government is providing a vehicle for the co-ordination of federal, provincial, municipal and other local efforts in this regard.

I note that the honourable senator from North York described this measure, and the accompanying annual sum of \$5 million, as the best investment that Canada has ever made. In the course of my remarks I would like to suggest that there is another field with an equally imperative need for another \$5 million and which may well provide a better investment than this one.

As we read the bill we notice the objects and the powers that are given to the administration to deal with this national concept, and to give a new dimension to the activities in this field. They were ably stated by the minister who introduced this legislation in the other house. He explained that to date there was inadequate assistance in this field and, therefore, there was a lack of facilities, a lack of trained coaches and trained personnel, a lack of leadership in the promotion of local projects, and so on. The point I want to make is this, that once we decide to do something we can find all kinds of reasons for rationalizing the position we have taken, and it is a good thing that that is so. I believe that there are few in this house who would not agree with the broader purposes of this legislation, or with the nine sub-principles which are listed in section 3 of the bill which indicate the various avenues of approach in promoting this new program. I would point out to honourable senators that the minister said:

The new program will give major emphasis to promoting amateur sports and fitness for all our young people.

It might well be remembered that physical fitness in young people is the peculiar and specific area of school programs which are within the competence of the provincial Governments, and that all community athletic programs are really run at the municipal level and are, therefore, within the jurisdiction of municipal competency.