

Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act

Dr. Martin O'Connell, a former Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, a former Minister of Labour, just a couple of years after he was defeated—and rightfully so—was given \$3,500 regarding the definition of financing and accounting systems, but Howard and Associates were also paid \$297,000 to do the same thing. Who is being kidded?

Goldfarb and Associates, a very well-known Liberal organization, were given \$16,000 for research. The Minister will not even come clean with the committee or the House. He will not tell us what the research report said. He tells us what his interpretation of the research report is, but he will not produce it. He will not let us see the type of research which the taxpayers' money paid for. He will not show it to us. So we do not know if he is telling the truth or if he is dreaming up his own figures on this great boondoggle which he is bringing to the Canadian people.

My second prediction is that it will be a Crown corporation which will spend money unwisely, just like Loto Canada, which wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars on things which it should not have. It will spend money like it is not its own. It will spend money like it was handed to it and it does not have to account for it. We, in our involvement in the report stage and in committee, suggested that each year this particular Crown corporation should be audited by the Auditor General. Oh, no! The Government said no; it did not give us a reason why. It just said no, that it will appoint its own accounting company to take care of the books. Well, the Government appointed its own accounting company to take care of the books of Canadair and we all know what came out of that.

Let me predict what this Crown corporation will not do. It will not reach the predictions, those outlandish predictions which the Minister of State for International Trade has made about the net income of this corporation. It is just not going to happen. The competition today is much stiffer in the lottery field. It is much easier to buy a lottery ticket for \$1, \$5 or \$10 and not have to work at it than it will be to buy a ticket at whatever price is going to be put on it—that has not yet been established—and sit down and try to figure out who is going to win games. It is a game of skill, the Minister said. I can tell you right now, Mr. Speaker, that because of the competition in the lottery business today, his figures are completely wrong. The goals which have been set will never be reached.

In addition, for the Minister to say that this lottery must go through to support the XV Olympics in Calgary is really misleading this place. The reason I say that is because I do not believe it is going to make itself the \$200 million by the year 1988, which has been committed to those volunteers, those people in Calgary who have spent such a great deal of their own time and money putting this excellent presentation together. I do not believe the Government is going to make it with this program. Not only that, it is going to have to add to it to make up that \$200 million commitment. While that is going on, those activities which we are talking about, fitness and amateur sports, the arts and culture, and medical and health research, will not receive anything. They will be left out there to dry.

The Minister says that these are very worth-while projects, and I agree with him wholeheartedly, they are very worth-

while projects. There is no question about that. However, how can they do any type of planning, put any kind of program together, a one-year, two-year, three-year, four-year program, when they are relying on gambling money, when they are relying on income from a "numbers racket"? They will have no idea how much will be coming in. They will have no idea how much they are going to receive even on a percentage basis from the funding. They will have absolutely no idea if they will receive anything out of it or if the money will all be eaten up in prize money or if, in fact, it will go down the tube.

What is it costing to set this up? According to the Bill, it is costing \$10 million, plus the Corporation is allowed to borrow \$20 million. The Minister of Tourism and Recreation for Ontario estimates it will cost \$90 million just to set up this particular game which the Government is proposing.

We are opposing this Bill, Mr. Speaker, for numerous reasons. I mentioned the morality of it. I mentioned the porkbarrel aspects of it, and it will be a dandy, you can bet your boots on that. It will be a real dandy. I can see the Ministers now standing there handing out the cheques. I can see the appointments to the boards. I can see the chauffeur-driven cars and another permanent suite like Loto Canada had at the hotels. I can see these kinds of things coming in again with another Crown corporation. I am predicting now that this whole program of getting into the "numbers racket" is going to be a complete and utter failure. It was ill-conceived from the start. It will continue to be a drain on the public purse and especially on the poor people of this country who we all know are the ones who support this type of activity.

● (1540)

I will close by saying we will vote against the creation of a new Crown corporation. We support the Olympics wholeheartedly, but we do not feel worth-while projects should be funded through gambling money and we abhor the immorality of the federal Government getting back into gambling once again, amending the Criminal Code to make it legal for the Government to gamble but not for anyone else. It is a complete shame and I feel very badly that I have to stand up and debate such a Bill. I am completely and unalterably opposed to it and will vote against it on third reading.

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Mr. Speaker, I rise to end the debate on the Government's intention to institutionalize gambling by means of a numbers pool, purportedly to help the Calgary Olympics. If it was meant to do that and that alone, the Bill would limit the exercise to the funding of the Calgary Olympics and stop there. Actually it is a Bill to institutionalize this system in the Canadian way of life.

We need to look at the signals this Bill is sending out. The fact is that the Government, in order to introduce this gaming practice in Canada, has to include in the legislation amendments to the Criminal Code. That ought to send a clear signal to all of us that something is drastically wrong with the entire