

tremendous co-operation which the Minister has received from his provincial counterparts, will he ensure the sporting constituency of the country that he will go to the provinces to obtain the moneys which those lotteries will be generating and give them to the sporting organizations and federations of the country? Will he give the sporting community that guarantee? This is a very specific question which begs a very specific answer.

Mr. Jelinek: The very specific answer is that some of those funds are already being diverted to the sports governing bodies, as the Hon. Member well knows. One-half of the \$35 million which comes in goes toward the sports governing bodies of the country.

In answer to his initial question regarding lotteries, I have consistently answered the question. I do not know what the Hon. Member is trying to get at when he says that I have not answered his questions. This Government believes it is within the jurisdiction of the provincial Governments. Historically, that goes back to the development of the first Olympic Lottery. The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Nipigon read into the record part of a speech I made some time ago. The House accepted a temporary Olympic Lottery to defer the costs of the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. At that time, with the support of all three Parties, the House agreed that it would be a temporary lottery called the Olympic Lottery and that the federal Government would not get into the lottery business. Of course, we were misled by the Liberal Government. No sooner did we pay off the federal Government's share of the Olympic deficit in Montreal the Liberal Government changed the name of the Olympic Lottery to Loto Canada. An Hon. Member from Montreal points out that the deficit has never been paid off. That is true.

The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Nipigon has already read word for word what I said about the subject in the House some years ago. At that time the House unanimously agreed that lotteries were not meant to be part of the federal jurisdiction. When we took office in 1979 we signed an agreement with the provinces giving them the right to run lotteries. This was in return for a certain sum of money which now amounts to over \$35 million a year. Much of the money which the provinces keep goes toward the development of amateur sports in those particular provinces. Today, under my leadership, no one can say that they are receiving less money in terms of what they receive from federal Government contributions and the private sector. In fact, what they must say is that there is more money available for amateur sports today than there was ever before and that fewer tax dollars are being used for this purpose.

● (1750)

Mr. Marchi: The Minister goes back to the deal of 1979 where again, according to Tory mathematics, he exchanges some \$300 million in return for \$35 million and then he says that half of that \$35 million would be used for sports. Of the greater share of the moneys which are being generated by the lotteries across the country, can the Minister provide us with some figures as to what the provincial Governments are spend-

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ing on sports? Does the Minister really have a control over what the provincial Governments dedicate to the sports area? The Minister laughs but it is important because the provincial Governments, from those lotteries, have more moneys at their disposal to put into sports than the federal Government. Therefore, it would be incumbent on the Minister, and logical, if the Minister knew how the greater share of the moneys were being spent.

Would the Minister be prepared to give us statistics or numbers as a way of assuring Canadians, and the sporting community, that, yes, now that he has given away the lotteries to the provincial Governments, those Governments are in fact putting the moneys into the same areas as would this Government if it controlled the lotteries?

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Chairman, I did not laugh. I was smiling because the questioning by the Hon. Member is becoming more ridiculous all the time. The Hon. Member is now suggesting that we should have control over what the provinces do with their lottery process. That is the type of Liberal confrontation which existed in the past. That is not what exists now. There is no confrontation existing between this federal Government and the provincial Government.

Surely the Hon. Member is not suggesting that this Government should dictate to the provinces as to how they should spend their revenues, whether from taxes or from lotteries, for goodness sake. I cannot believe that the Hon. Member would even pose such a question.

With respect to statistics of how much of those funds generated from provincial lotteries go toward amateur sports, I believe that is public knowledge in each individual province.

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Chairman, I do not think it is an illegitimate question whatsoever. If the Minister was prepared to stand up on his feet and courageously say that he and his Government are against lotteries, I could respect and appreciate that. However, if we have a money-making mechanism which is to be used to aid sports organizations, that is to be used to take away some of the pressures on our federal coffers, and if the mechanism is doing that, surely to God, that is positive. However, in taking that mechanism, as a federal Minister, and giving it to the provinces, as is now being done, is the Minister suggesting that somehow he is a good Sports Minister? Is the Minister trying to suggest to me that that is in good defence of his Sports Ministry? The Minister cannot rise in this House as the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport and say that he is taking a mechanism, which is in part going to help sports, and giving it to the provinces, and then say, "I don't know what is going to happen. I cannot tell the sports people how to run their business in the individual provinces."

The Minister sure can, for goodness sake, tell the provinces in a kindly way if he is afraid to bruise some of his Conservative colleagues at the provincial level. He should try in the best way possible to get those moneys going into the sports coffers where they went before.