

colonels. I am sorry I am using that as an analogy, but we must start building a base of sports that is for all people across this country and not just the select few.

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this pig-in-a-poke sort of operation that we have before us today and I call it a pig-in-a-poke for good reason. I do not know how many Members on the other side have read the Bill, aside from the Minister who presented it and spoke on it. I found his comments rather amusing. The Minister responsible for the Bill is not in the House so I do not think it is of any great interest to the Government.

• (1750)

On page 6 of the Bill, Clause 14 sets out the objects of the corporation as being to "organize, operate and manage pool systems" in accordance with regulations made pursuant to Section 16. That is enough to make the Bill into a real pig in a very real poke because we do not know what those regulations are.

Clause 16 provides that the Governor in Council may make regulations which regulate "the organization, operation and management of pool systems" and describes the terms and the portion of moneys to be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund. These are the regulations that the Governor in Council may make with respect to the operation of the corporation.

Clause 17 provides that the Minister shall cause a copy of the regulations made under the previous section to be laid before Parliament. We do not know what those regulations are, yet under the provisions of the Bill we are being asked to agree to the existence of a corporation which will organize pool systems which are to be regulated according to regulations we have not seen. If that is not a pig in a poke I do not think I have ever seen one. It is preposterous that the Government should ask us to agree to the creation of an institution to be run in accordance with regulations we have not seen.

The amendment before us proposes that the second portion of Clause 14 should be eliminated. I am at a loss to understand how any self-respecting Government could come forward with the objects of the corporation as set out in paragraph (b), to conduct and manage in accordance with the regulations such lawful gaming activities etcetera.

On page 14 of the Bill the Government has proposed a change in the law to make this lawful. The Criminal Code is to be amended to make the activities under this Bill lawful. If there is anything that stretches the credibility of a Government more than that I do not know of it. I hope any action of any Government would be lawful, but this Government wants to make special provision in the Bill to amend the Criminal Code so that the corporation it is to create will act in a lawful fashion. I think the House should be ashamed of itself, Mr. Speaker. Surely lawfulness should exist; laws should not have

to be amended to fit corporations, yet that is what we are being asked to do.

The other element of the Bill which has me worried is that it creates another Crown corporation in complete disregard of the comments of the 1982 Report of the Auditor General on page 45, paragraph 2.6 which reads as follows:

Increasingly, the corporate form is being chosen by Government to achieve public policy objectives . . . With assets of approximately \$67 billion, liabilities of over \$57 billion, annual expenditures of over \$30 billion, and more employees than government departments, Crown-owned corporations require an improved framework for accountability to both Parliament and Government.

I have already spoken about accountability. We are being asked to see the creation of something which will subscribe to regulations we have not seen. I do not know what got into the Government, that it should propose this on the floor of this House. It is as outrageous as what happened yesterday.

In addition to that, we are asked to amend the Criminal Code in certain respects so that it will fit in with the activities of this particular corporation. In other words, it is suggested that what we are doing is creating a corporation which will be involved in unlawful operations, until we agree to make them lawful. I become speechless when I think of that sort of conduct by a Government.

Clause 14 would permit the corporation to engage in unlawful activities to be made lawful in Clause 33.

Mr. Paproski: What is the Government going to legalize next?

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): It has legalized many things since 1968. I find it beyond belief that any Government should present a Bill of this sort enabling a corporation to perform functions which are obviously not legal, but have to be made legal with this particular law.

In his 1982 Report the Auditor General said that the agent status for Crown corporations occupied a twilight area in Canadian jurisprudence. In other words, this Crown corporation will be able to plead, before the courts that it is immune from the law in many respects as have other Crown corporations. I have for example the quotation from representations made before the Supreme Court of Canada in January this year.

May I call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, it being six o'clock p.m., pursuant to Order made Wednesday, March 30, 1983, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

May I remind Hon. Members that at that time the House will consider a Ways and Means Motion of the Hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde).

At 6 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.