

Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act

When I return to Saskatoon for the summer recess, the students of the University of Saskatchewan are dedicating a full day on July 6 to the problems of employable students who are unable to find work to sustain themselves and to pay their tuition fees. What will I say to these young people who are really hurting? Will I be able to say that in the last days before the recess Parliament tried to grapple with their problems? No, I will have to say that the Government's priority was to set up a form of lottery or sports pool to ensure that Martin O'Connell, executive assistant to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and former Minister of Labour, a well known Liberal, receives a very substantial fee. He will not have any worry with respect to employment; he will be doing quite all right. What about Goldfarb Associates, well known Liberal pollsters? This outfit will receive an enormous amount of money. There will be no unemployment worries for the people who work for that Liberal advertising agency. What can I say to the students of Saskatoon?

I see some Ministers sitting in the Chamber this afternoon who have responsibility to give answers respecting the policy of the Government. I ask them what I should say when I return to my constituency. The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) in particular should understand my dilemma. The Government is so devoid of policy that it brings in a piece of legislation which in effect puts a tax on the poor of the country, those people who can least afford to pay. This is what a lottery is all about.

I do not want to wear my morals on my sleeve or take a sanctimonious approach. Those of us who are interested in politics and serve in the House of Commons know, in terms of an absolute political principle, that what is being done on a national level—granted, it was the Government of which I had the honour to be a part that got out of the lottery business—is that Canadians are being told it is okay to tax the poor of the nation. They are the ones who will be paying the sum and substance of the Bill. Hon. Members on the Government side know this. In their heart of hearts they know that these people will put more money, in proportion to their incomes, into this kind of investment and cannot afford it. It is an absolutely reprehensible position for the Government to take.

What are the figures? Ticket purchasing in Canada averages \$42 per year for every man, woman and child. As a nation we pay out \$1 billion annually for the chance to win.

Mr. Evans: Tell your Premier.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I live in the riding of the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans) when I am here. Let me tell him that I am disappointed with him. Of course I will tell Premier Grant Devine. That is a position I take, no matter whether it is the federal Government or the provincial Government. I do not need any lecture from the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre, who has changed his position in anticipation of a Cabinet post. He will stand in his place, representing an area where there is high unemployment, and in order to get a Cabinet position he would say "Ready, aye, ready". He is not prepared to question something which is morally wrong. That is what is wrong with

this Bill. If he would rise in his place and make a speech on this, we might be able to decide what his position is.

• (1540)

This is a very serious question I want to pose. I want to bring out some logic for Government backbenchers who know in their heart of hearts, to quote their philosophical hero, Senator Barry Goldwater, that this legislation is wrong-headed. Quite frankly, it gives the people of Canada very little expectation in return. The best odds in a national lottery in Canada are something like 600,000 to 1. That is the best odds a Canadian has in winning a lottery. This gives some idea of the expectations some people have.

We can spend our money and dream our dreams. Those buying lottery tickets are entitled to do that. I acknowledge that the Provinces have enough lotteries. The Provinces now have the jurisdiction, so why is the federal Government getting into this? What is the crying need that the federal Government sees whereby it must spend valuable time at end of June to bring forward as its priority a sports lottery Bill? I cannot understand it.

Yesterday I pointed out that in another forum, the Superior Court of Quebec, the Attorney General, speaking on behalf of the Government, made representations for an injunction to prevent the Hockey Select program from going forward in Quebec. What was the rationale? By taking this action the provincial Government was undermining the morals of the people of the Province of Quebec because it was carrying on functions clearly prohibited under our criminal law. Why does the Government take that position in one forum, the Province of Quebec, and then come here and tell us this is one of its priorities?

I want to address this Bill again. I will have another opportunity to do so. I have not yet had the opportunity to get my full message across. However, I do want to say one thing. The real irony of this particular enterprise—I am making my prognostication now, and I will give you ten to one, Mr. Speaker—is that this project is going to fail. Look what happened to Hockey Sélect. It has been pointed out that in the Province of Quebec it started off on November 30, 1982 with a high of \$136,144 on a weekly gross, dropped to \$70,000 in January and \$40,000 in February. It is going downhill. People are not buying this kind of version of a sports pool which is very similar to what is being presented to us as a sports pool for all of Canada. It will fail. They young people of Canada want to know about jobs. They want to know about their future. They want to know what they can expect in this country. Therefore, we should be ashamed of ourselves for spending these last few valuable hours debating the creation of a sports pool. The Ministers of the Crown should be the most ashamed of all.

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Mr. Speaker, it is always a privilege to follow my colleague for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn). He spoke eloquently on this matter. With regard to motion No. 3 and Bill C-95, I want to tell the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans) that his laughter and