

*Criminal Code*

north from North Dakota, South Dakota, and the State of Minnesota to the Province of Manitoba and to Assiniboia Downs to enjoy an afternoon or an evening at the races. This legislation will ultimately enhance the business and make this industry more attractive.

In my province, Assiniboia Downs and the racing industry employ roughly 3,000 people. That is very significant. We as parliamentarians have a responsibility to support that type of industry. I have been told that if the Bill goes through, which I am sure that it will, it could add 500 to 600 jobs to the industry. Again, I consider that significant. We should throw our support behind it as much as possible.

Over half the population of the Province of Manitoba resides in the capital City of Winnipeg. The other half of the population, approximately 500,000 people, is scattered throughout the rest of the province. There are many race fans in the cities of Brandon, Dauphin, Thompson, Swan River, Flin Flon, and The Pas. As this industry expands and grows it is not hard to envisage that there could be theatre betting established in the City of Brandon or in the City of Dauphin. I feel strongly that they are entitled to it.

Going out for an evening at the races is a pleasant pastime. Many times I have gone to Assiniboia Downs to enjoy the races. I do not only enjoy the races, but I enjoy the restaurant facilities and the company of friends. It is an evening out, a real social occasion. It is not only watching the ponies running or betting. It is a full package. It would go over very well in communities such as Brandon, Dauphin, The Pas, Swan River, or wherever the industry feels that it can reach out. We should support this type of initiative.

I want to say one more thing about giving people the opportunity to express themselves. Almost nothing in this world can be construed as motherhood, and there are people who are down on wagering of this nature or who are down on any type of betting. The business of racing, the sport of kings, has its detractors. Those people have a right to tell us their concerns and

reservations. We should facilitate hearing those people. Like my friend, the Hon. Member for York Centre I would like to hear from the United Church of Canada if indeed that particular church has reservations or concerns. In the fine tuning of the legislation, if that comes to be, if we can fine tune it perhaps to alleviate some of their concerns then we have done our work.

While this piece of legislation deserves our support, let us send it to the agricultural committee where the democratic process can go forward. There is still time.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I understand there is unanimous consent this afternoon to refer the Bill to the Standing Committee on Agriculture. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and, by unanimous consent, referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** On a point of order, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Co-operation has been achieved this afternoon from all Parties of the House. I want to thank all Members who participated in the debate for that co-operation, and in the spirit of co-operation I would ask the Speaker to call it six o'clock.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent to call it six o'clock?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** This House stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 11 a.m.

The House adjourned at 4.56 p.m.