

*Criminal Code*

I think it is clear from what I have said that this Bill clarifies a number of uncertainties that existed within the law. In addition, it gives a clear legislative recognition to past and present provincial activities, and also puts some very clear restrictions and bounds on what is and what is not permissible. Accordingly, given the state of the current law and the judicial interpretation of it, the proposed Bill does not promote an expansion of gambling. I think it is very important for Members to understand that this Bill does not promote the expansion of gambling, but rather sets some realistic and clear standards of what is permissible.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, this Bill is long overdue. It certainly spells out in black and white a much clearer picture of lotteries and associated games in Canada and transfers to the provinces the lottery rights, which was the intention of the Progressive Conservative Government in 1979.

I would like to add my thanks to all of those who participated for eight or nine months in the very long and tough negotiations in order to bring the agreement to a conclusion in June. This agreement will provide the federal Government with \$100 million of non-tax revenues from the provinces. It will eliminate the irritant which existed between the provinces and the federal Government and has, therefore, opened the door to creating much better federal-provincial co-operation in other areas. I would particularly like to thank all the people in the Department of Justice who worked from the federal standpoint. Most important, I would like to thank the provincial Ministers responsible for lotteries for making this Bill a reality.

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the debate on Bill C-81. I learned only a few minutes ago about the business of the House this afternoon.

To put the Bill in context, let me say that I believe it evolved from the sports pool lottery which was in operation during the previous administration. That particular mechanism to generate funds for the Calgary Winter Olympics was a noble one because it recognized the need to generate enough funds to make the Olympic Games a success. When we talk of the Olympic Games we are talking about an international event in which the world-wide sporting community will be involved. Therefore, it is important that the Olympic Games be a success.

The previous Government committed itself to a contribution of some \$200 million. I am pleased that the present Minister has been able to secure \$100 million from the provincial Governments as well as set up a coin program which will generate between \$30 million and \$50 million.

There are a number of important factors that are generated by this particular piece of legislation which the Minister failed to address. First, he had given us a commitment that the provinces would be contributing upward of half of the \$200 million commitment. At the time the promise was made it was an unqualified commitment that the provincial Governments would consider it as part of their mandate to participate with

the federal Government in staging this international event. Now we learn that that support is qualified, that the provincial Governments want something in return for the portion that they will donate to the Olympics rather than saying that as provinces they have an obligation to work in partnership with the federal Government to help stage the Winter Olympics in Calgary. Their support was dependent upon the piece of legislation which is before the House today. Is it fair and proper that the right to run lotteries or maintain mechanisms to generate funds for sporting activities should be given to the provinces without any assurance that the moneys generated by the provincial Governments will be directed back into the sports field?

Another thing which the Minister failed to outline was how the remaining portion of the \$200 million will be financed. As I mentioned at the outset, we have approximately, depending upon the figures used, \$130 to \$140 million of the \$200 million commitment. There has been no information forthcoming from the present Minister since his appointment in September as to how the shortfall will be picked up. There is no firm commitment on how much money will be generated by the coin program and, therefore, Canadians, those organizing the Olympics and the athletes themselves, do not know how or if the rest of the moneys will be raised.

There is also very little information, if you put aside the previous argument, on how the \$100 million to be contributed by the provincial Governments will be shared. Canadians from the various provinces are asking themselves how the split of the \$100 million will be arranged. That is an important consideration when one realizes that some provinces are not in a position to contribute on a proportional basis. I would have appreciated it if the Minister had taken the opportunity to elaborate on the splitting up of the provincial contributions. I think it is unfair for a have-not province, if I may use that term, to contribute the same proportional amount as Alberta or Ontario would contribute.

As I mentioned at the outset, I do not completely agree with the concept of removing the lottery business from the federal domain and saying that it is only for the provinces. I believe that the present Minister shares my feelings on that. In the *Calgary Herald* of September 20 he is quoted as saying, in relation to the sports pool program: "We need to come up with a different funding system and that will be a priority". I think that is very important, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister and the Government talk about eliminating a program, about modifying a piece of legislation and about the federal Government abandoning on area, then it is incumbent upon them to say also what will be replacing that system.

In this case sports organizations and interests that have used sports pools to generate funds for sporting activities and are seeing the rights to those pools given to the provinces without any guarantee that funds will be pumped back into the federal sports scene will want to know where they are left. Quite often when Governments tighten the purse strings, as the Government has done, it is inevitable that sportings and cultural activities take a beating and experience very severe financial