

Supply

sports: where are the facilities for year around training or opportunity to enjoy these sports?

Another problem in this whole milieu of sports in Canada has to do with the commercialization of sport. All too often sport is run as a business in Canada. The guiding motive is not excellence but profit. One need only look at the hockey industry to see what I mean. What started as Canada's game is now controlled by foreign investors. We can recall the difficulty of the World Hockey Association in trying to wrest players from the National Hockey League. That in itself is a misnomer; it should be called the "American hockey league."

We can think of the problems of the city of Vancouver in trying to obtain a hockey franchise. The early applications from Vancouver noted that they could attract sell-out crowds if they had a hockey team. However, the reason given for not getting the franchise until much later was that there was not a large enough television audience. In other words, the profit came before the sport.

Decisions regarding our national game are made outside Canada. This commercial aspect of sport, including hockey and other games, also dominates and controls our national amateur sport. The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association is still dominated by the National Hockey League. Young boys playing organized hockey still have to register with the CAHA. Through the sponsorship of amateur teams and associated activities we still see the overriding control of the professional clubs in the area of amateur sport.

We should examine the contracts into which some young players are forced. I know a young lad in Sault Ste. Marie who had a contract that was approximately akin to slavery. If my memory serves me correctly, we abolished slavery in Canada in the 1830s. When you look at the fine print clauses in this young man's contract you can understand why he had to spend a lot of money on a lawyer trying to break that contract in court.

Another reason the amateur sport situation in Canada is not as good as it should be is the scholarship program. We must ask ourselves what we put first, academics or sports. Is the student who excels in sport to be denied a scholarship to a university or elsewhere because of his academic ability? The government should rethink its position on this matter. The government in 1971 initiated a grant and aid program to help those who could not qualify for a scholarship. There were 392 students who received grants and aid. Hockey Canada received over 1,000 applications in 1971 from hockey players who wished to continue their studies. But because of these academic sports qualifications only 85 of them were granted scholarships. So we find more and more Canadians every year going to the United States and taking up sports scholarships from American universities in order to further their studies and their sports careers.

• (1550)

I understand the government currently has before it over 3,500 applications from young people desiring scholarships and other forms of aid so they may participate in sports activities such as the Pan-American games and the Olympics. The value of these scholarships ranges from \$600 to \$1,800. Many of the scholarships have been put to

[Mr. Symes.]

good use even though they fall far short of what young athletes require. I have heard of athletes who have lived in university residences in order that they might have more time available to swim in the university pools, to save travel time back and forth to these facilities.

I have heard of students who have hired private tutors so that they can accelerate their studies and spend extra time in Australia where better facilities for swimming are available. This is indicative of a fault in our whole amateur sports program. We lend money to young athletes and then expect them to find the facilities of which there is such a desperate shortage in this country. I hope the government will reconsider its position and try to build more of these facilities so as to help people who obtain scholarships or grants.

The government has not come to terms with amateurism or professionalism in this country and I think it is about time it did. Thank goodness, last year the Olympic oath was changed so that young people who obtain scholarships can register for the games. Before the rule was changed, it was an offence to do so. But when we are talking about scholarships we are talking about an elite group, those who are going to universities. Why has the government not experimented more with grants to those outside the universities? Today such grants make up only a marginal part of the program. Under the present arrangements, working-class children who do not attend universities are discriminated against. Although they may excel at certain kinds of sport, these young people are handicapped because they do not possess the wherewithal to go on to higher education.

Attention should also be paid to the neglect of coaches in this country. Many of our coaches operate on a part-time, volunteer basis. It is not possible to find more dedicated people anywhere. At the same time, they lack the training which is desired. One has only to compare the hockey program in Russia with the hockey program in Canada for this to become clear. These volunteer coaches often find that a family situation develops which makes it no longer possible for them to devote their time to young people. We spend money to encourage young people to advance in amateur sport, yet we neglect the vital question of who is training them and how qualified these trainers are.

To be successful, athletes need support programs; they need coaches, facilities, medical advice. And by failing to grant money to these aspects of sport, to the provision of these facilities, the government has created a program which is not living up to our expectations. Why should a sprinter at Carleton University, for example, be obliged to sprint up and down the halls because there is no indoor track at the college? Athletes have to do their own work. The government hands out money but it does not provide the required facilities.

The expectations placed today on athletes in our society is extremely high. Many athletes do not know how to go about living up to them. There is a high dropout rate and the public becomes enraged and discouraged by Canada's performance in world competition. The government has provided the stimulus but it has failed to provide adequate support. I hope to see this amateur sport effort moving toward an integrated program. What we are doing