

million. I was not consulted by the Government, but I assume that it picked a figure which it felt would be adequate to make a substantial start in this direction. It was not at all allied to any particular program proposed as of that time. I take it that probably over the longer term the figure will be flexible. But much of what I have heard and read seems to deal with this \$5 million figure as being the key to the whole program as proposed under the bill.

I am not sure what amount of money could or should be used for this type of activity. It might be less than \$5 million, perhaps considerably less, while on the other hand it might be a great deal more. But what I think is the most important part of this bill is that it draws attention emphatically to the need in this country for greater physical fitness, and to the fact that doing well in athletics, sports or any of those allied activities, is something creditable and deserves a place in our social scheme.

I have felt for some time that part of the reason for the lack of interest evidenced by the young in fitness and athletics of all sorts was because it was not considered very fashionable and because no great amount of credit was ever given for the tremendous effort which is always required to be a success in that field. Thus, one of the most important aspects of this bill is that the Parliament of Canada has now shown to the people of the country, the young particularly, that being fit and participating in all forms of sport is a good thing and something to be commended.

One of the facts which has not been emphasized perhaps as much as it should have been in connection with a program of development such as this, is that all forms of athletic endeavour are a wonderful training ground for developing leadership. I mentioned this before, but it bears repetition. I believe that in the search for leadership one of the places, where fitness may be shown and where progress may be fostered is on the field, the rink, the track, the ski slopes, and in all athletic fields. Our need for leadership in Canada is apparent every day of the week. Anything we do, at a cost of \$5 or \$5 million, or more, to help develop another source of future leaders is of paramount importance to the future of the country.

Another facet of this whole picture I think should be mentioned. I do not honestly believe that enough credit has been given to all those people who, over the years, have played such a big part in the amateur athletic organization in Canada, without subventions of any sort. Most of us do not realize how many people are involved in the giving of

time, effort and money in the amateur organizations which have endeavoured to develop and foster all these different phases of athletics—from curling, through track, cycling, skiing, golf, tennis, hockey, football and basketball. In every game we have some thousands of people in Canada who for many years have given unselfishly and, usually, anonymously of their very best to try to make it possible for others, particularly the young, to develop in amateur athletics. Now that they have encouragement, I am sure we shall all be astonished and pleased to see how much more they can contribute. In the past they have been very much voices crying in the wilderness, with little support and rarely any thanks.

Honourable senators, I should like to add a word on the question raised by the honourable Leader of the Opposition regarding the question of champions versus general participation or general fitness. I believe it is not unfair to say that where you have a high degree of general fitness you are going to develop champions; the one follows on the other. It is equally true that the moment you develop some champions in any of these areas of athletic endeavour you automatically raise the standard of physical fitness throughout the country. It is extraordinary how success attracts attention, and how, by virtue of the efforts of a young Bruce Kidd or someone who makes a tremendous success in a certain field, automatically more youngsters are drawn into that form of activity. There is more competition and, in fact, the general level of fitness rises. For that reason I would not be too worried were this bill to place some emphasis on developing champions—though I did not actually notice that tendency—because I am convinced that champions and fitness go hand in hand.

Of course, there is much that is unknown about the possibilities of this bill. I assume that it can only develop and attain its greatest chance of success if provincial governments and other bodies accept the lead of the Government of Canada, in supporting this effort where their own provincial jurisdiction applies. There is the danger that should the provinces view this matter with disfavour it will not be a great success. On the other hand, if they will take the lead and recognize the need for such a program as that envisaged here, then the \$5 million will be very much increased, if that is necessary, the support will be much greater, and the chances of success would be multiplied several times.

Honourable senators, I do not intend to take up your time further. In closing, I say that I believe this bill provides the vehicle for the purpose. How the vehicle runs depends entirely on the amount of support it