

Private Members' Business

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I know we can do anything here by unanimous consent, but I just wanted to bring to the attention of the House that when there are extended hours, during that time we usually drop the adjournment debate. We have Private Member's, but we do drop the adjournment debate. The Chair is your obedient servant.

Mr. Dingwall: In the spirit of trying to co-operate with members to the extreme left, we thought that we could accommodate them in that particular request. It was agreed to by the parliamentary secretary, myself and the hon. member for Burnaby that we would proceed with the Private Member's Hour, followed thereafter by the adjournment debate, and then we would resume with the major debate on the Iraq motion that we are now debating. That was the understanding of all three political parties, unless I stand to be corrected.

Mr. Robison: Mr. Speaker, my friend on the extreme right is correct, that was the understanding.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I am glad you got your act together. Thank you very much. Members have heard the terms of the motion. Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being 5 p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—MOTIONS

[English]

SPORTS

INDEPENDENT REVIEW AND ARBITRATION

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of establishing an independent review and arbitration process whereby disputes between athletes and sports organizations can be resolved, with power to investigate and direct such remedies as deemed appropriate.

He said: Mr. Speaker, on August 25, 1978, two members of the Canadian swim team competing in the World Championships in Berlin decided to go out for a quiet dinner. In the course of their celebration of what had

been for them a very good season, each of them had one beer and were five minutes late for their curfew. As a result, they were sent home without explanation and lost their position on the team and lost the careers they had developed.

Sports in Canada is rife with stories of this kind. What was once upon a time a simple matter of signing on for participation in an event has in the post-war period become quite a different exercise and activity.

Sports in Canada, as around the world, has become professional. Sports in terms of the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, and Pan American Games has become professional. This is not in itself a bad thing in the arts and cultural field. Because of the resources we have built and the kinds of economies we have, we have been able to employ significant numbers of our people in the pursuit of excellence. This is so in arts and so in sports.

We have provided an opportunity for Canadians of all ages. Mr. Speaker, you in fact may be eligible even now for the lawn bowling team to compete in the Commonwealth Games in Victoria in 1994.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Brewin: I will take that up with the Victoria Commonwealth Games Society, Mr. Speaker. I am sure your application would be well received. The fact is, though, that if you were to do that you would be subject first of all to a body that would decide who is to be on the team. Once on the team, you would be subject to the rules of that team. Included in those rules would be the absolute discretion as to whether you would compete or not.

As we all know—and not only in the area of selection and eligibility, but also when it comes to working conditions—financial assistance to athletes is determined now by a very complex bureaucratic process. Young athletes—and they are primarily younger than you and I, Mr. Speaker—who are elite athletes still in competition live in a world completely dominated by the bureaucracies that govern them. Most of the people who work in these bureaucracies do so out of a conviction that sport has a very important place in our society. However, they do so also often without any significant training on employer-employee relations and without any significant constraints on the powers they exercise over young people and over the athletes and coaches who work for them.