Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act

warmed up so that I could explain why I disagree with this Bill. I was trying to put the players in place.

Our motion is basically very discreet. It is to do one job, finish it and get on with the show.

I have had substantial background in amateur sport. I happened to be the president of one of the senior sport federations at the time they were all dragged to Ottawa. The former Minister of National Health and Welfare who then was responsible for this was the man that blackmailed us into coming to the city.

I do not like this lottery because I look back at the past and I see Nancy Greene a great Canadian hero. We did not have lotteries then. We had private citizens who helped finance her to become the world champion.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fennell: What happened when we moved sports and brought the lottery into Ottawa? We built up a tremendous administration.

The point I make is that I do not believe in lotteries. Lotteries are immoral. The Minister tries to justify them on the basis of skill. That is like saying that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) justifies his ability on the basis of throwing dice. It is ridiculous to have this Government debate a crap game. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but that is exactly what it is.

This Bill is only talking about raising enough money to build a palace in which to hold a sports event. If you want to do something worthwhile for sport in this country, we must talk to the grassroots of the sports people in this country we must help them so we can be proud of them when they go overseas. Those are the people I am talking about. That help could be provided by removing the $100 present tax deduction on our tax form and allowing 150 per cent write-off against income for any donations to charitable organizations. We do not go to the lower income people to get our tax money. We go to the middle and upper income people to provide the basis of what is wanted by the people.

Our decisions about the lottery are all being made for us here in Ottawa. I think that is the wrong way to do it. Let the people decide. We should not decide here in Ottawa how the money to support these projects should be raised. Let the people decide what sports they want to support.

If you are going to build a coliseum or whatever you need in Calgary, then work out a deal with Calgarians. Obtain a third from the federal Government, a third from the Province, and a third through private donations. The people will come up with the money if you give them a reasonable tax break. We are trying to impose the wishes of bureaucrats in Ottawa upon Canadians across the country. That is not fair.

I have seen people in my own riding who have won lotteries. There have been tragedies. My wife is a professional in the social field and she has seen damage done to families who have won money from the lotteries. It is an indirect taxation and it affects those people who can least afford it.

The Hon. Minister tells me that there is a skill involved. Well, it is a million-to-one shot kind of a skill. If that is a skill, I would prefer to put my efforts into something with more favorable odds. I notice they took horse racing out of this Bill. That is interesting. If you are going to throw in hockey teams, why not throw in horses?

Mr. Paproski: Eugene Whelan says no.

Mr. Fennell: Was it Eugene Whelan? Whether it be hockey players or horses running around a track, it is all flesh and blood.

The major point made by the Hon. Member for Edmonton North was that the Minister had never gone to the Provinces to try and work out a reasonable proposition. He has never tried to work it out. Consider Wintario and the Provincial lottery. Look at the cost involved in administering those funds compared to Loto Canada which took in something like $750 million and netted $211 million out of that. The cost of administration was immense. When the Conservatives were in power, we disassembled that monstrosity. Bringing them back is a way of patronage to Liberal supporters.

I feel that in a country where every incentive to the private sector and to the citizens to get a job is removed by the Government economic policy the ultimate in socialism is to give one chance in a million to win a million bucks. One of the ambassadors to Canada brought up this point. He said, "You know, if they put the incentive to those people to invest in common stock and equity in this country, the country would be working again". Instead we are putting it into a crap game. An example of the Government's involvement in sports this year is the Canadian ski team which, at the last race of the year, was told to cough up $2,000. That is shameful. That is the kind of administration we have in Ottawa. The Minister makes fun of this but he does not know these people as I do. They were juniors when I was in that organization.

I maintain that this Bill should be defeated. I do not think this motion is strong enough. I would plead with the Members on the other side not to vote for this. It is immoral. If you have any sense of moral being, do not vote for this Bill. The churches do not want you to support it. Why should we give sports a greater advantage than we give churches which are having a hard time covering their parish costs? This is wrong.

An Hon. Member: Why do they hold lotteries all the time?

Mr. Fennell: They do not hold this type of lottery. They have bingo games at which they work hard to bring the people together, to create a community resource and a community adventure. This is strictly gambling, Mr. Speaker. This is the same thing as going to the State of New York to the lottery shops or the horse-betting shops and betting on a horse race. This is totally wrong. The funds are going to the wrong place. It is not helping the amateur sports enthusiast. It is hurting the amateur sports enthusiast because it is only looking after the cream of the crop. We must start building a base in this country just as we should be building a base in our armed forces at the grassroots. We have nothing but generals and