

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Before we embark on consideration of this vote I wonder if the parliamentary secretary could give the committee the information that he gave me in a letter about the role of the federal government in the supervision of race track betting. It does not seem to me that it should be given to just one hon. member. It is a matter of general interest, and I would point out that we expedited an item the other day to please the hon. gentleman.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** I shall be glad to do whatever the house wishes, but I would have to have unanimous consent. I fulfilled in detail the commitment which I made to the hon. gentleman, which was that I would be glad to get any additional information for him and send it to him. I sent it to him and fulfilled that commitment. Now I am in the hands of the committee as to whether there would be unanimous consent that I should give the information on this vote.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I do not want to enter into a dispute about semantics with the hon. gentleman, who is always very amiable until he gets excited.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** Which is very rarely.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I think we should make a lot more speed if he could get unanimous consent, if indeed that is really necessary.

**The Deputy Chairman:** I do not know to which item the hon. member for Bonavista-Twilligate is referring. Is it an item that has been passed?

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** It is an item in agriculture.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Will the committee give unanimous consent to revert to the item referred to by the parliamentary secretary and the hon. member for Bonavista-Twilligate?

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** I hope we would not revert to the item, because the item has been carried.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Just let us have the information.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Will the committee give unanimous consent for this information to be given?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** This is a letter dated April 3, 1962, addressed to the Hon. J. W. Pickersgill, M.P., House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario. It reads:

Dear Jack:

At page 2292 and 2293 of *Hansard* of March 29, 1962, I undertook to send to you further particulars of the role of the federal government in supervision of race track betting.

[Mr. Fleming (Eglinton).]

I would refer you specifically to section 178 of the Criminal Code (statutes of Canada 1953-54).

Where parimutuel systems are operated upon the race course of an association, the association must be incorporated by a special act of parliament of Canada or of the legislature of a province if incorporated on or after May 19, 1947; or, if incorporated before May 19, 1947, that the association has conducted a race meeting with parimutuel betting under the supervision of the Minister of Agriculture at any time after January 1, 1938, but before May 19, 1947; or, that the Minister of Agriculture has before May 19, 1947 made a determination under this section that the provisions of sections 176 and 177 shall not extend to the operation of a parimutuel system. The Criminal Code, section 178, also specifically provides for race meetings at which there are trotting races exclusively where pool selling, betting or wagering is permitted by an association if incorporated in any manner before March 20, 1912 or incorporated after that day by special act of parliament of Canada or of the legislature of a province.

With only three exceptions, the associations have been incorporated by special act of the legislature of a province, or by provincial letters patent. Each charter approves a number of racing days per calendar year under that charter.

Under the Criminal Code, the Minister of Agriculture is responsible for the approval of the parimutuel system and for the supervision of its operation. The minister, as a first responsibility, determines whether the charters held by associations under which they have applied for race track supervision, conform to the rules above stated. The minister establishes current validity of such charters by obtaining an up to date certification from provincial governments. Further, before approving racing dates, the minister satisfies himself that all other requirements under the Criminal Code and under the regulations issued by the Minister of Agriculture under section 178 have been met. These regulations govern the requirements of the parimutuel system, the race track facilities, and the actual conduct of the racing meets.

I am advised that the particular association to which you refer has submitted five charters all issued prior to March 20, 1912 and that these appear to be currently valid in conformity with the principles I have stated. They are being studied by the Department of Agriculture, to whom further inquiry should be made.

Yours sincerely,

Dick

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I thank the hon. member very much.

**Mr. Drysdale:** The Liberals are still backing the wrong horses in the next election.

**The Deputy Chairman:** I might inform the house leader of the official opposition that it is recorded that item 727 was passed on March 30.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Yes, Your Honour is quite right; I have looked that up. I thought we were still on that item, but apparently it did go through. We are now on item 728, I take it. I wonder if the Minister of Finance would like to add anything to the discussion which took place last Friday concerning wildlife, when certain matters were considered having to do with the vision of the north. I wonder if the minister would care to add