

Sports Pool Corporation

changing conditions. The Progressive Conservative Party is out to change things in the country.

I will always be on the side of the unborn child. I do not think anyone has the right to take the life of an unborn child or a born child.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Mr. Crosbie, seconded by Mr. Fraser, moves that Bill C-3, an Act to amend various Acts as a consequence of the reconstitution of the courts in Ontario and Manitoba, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

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**SPORTS POOL AND LOTO CANADA WINDING-UP
ACT**

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved that Bill C-2, an Act respecting the winding up of the Canada Sports Pool Corporation and Loto Canada Incorporated, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, first I want to take the opportunity to congratulate you in assuming the high office which you have taken on behalf of all of us in the House of Commons.

The legislation before us today marks the culmination of a four-year debate on whether the federal Government ought to have re-entered the lotteries field and the end to the very controversial Canada Sports Pool Corporation. After consideration of the debate, first on the proposal and then on the enactment of the federal sports pool lottery, we as a government have concluded that sole jurisdiction for lotteries must be restored to the provinces. It is for that reason the Bill is before us today.

As Hon. Members of the House will know, the purpose of this Bill is to wind up the previous government's Loto Canada and Canada Sports Pool Corporation, making good our Party's long-standing policy to keep the federal Government out of the lottery or gaming business.

On the surface of it, the Bill would appear to be very straightforward and uncontentious, compared with other legislative initiatives announced in the Speech from the Throne by Her Excellency the Governor General on Monday. This particular legislation may be viewed by some as a rather mundane

initiative, an initiative which may lead observers to ask why it has received such early and prompt attention by the new Government. I want to explain that today.

There are good reasons for the Government giving the Bill an early priority. First, by introducing the Bill we are making good on a long-standing belief that the federal Government has no business in the gaming and lottery field. Hence, by introducing this Bill early in the life of the new Parliament, we are demonstrating to the House and to Canadians that the Government is committed to keeping its word on long-standing policy positions and campaign commitments. If that is not patently obvious after hearing the Speech from the Throne, it will become obvious as the House begins to consider this and other pieces of legislation brought before it in the weeks and months ahead.

Second, and possibly more important than the first reason, is the fact that this Bill stands as a symbol. As all Hon. Members of the House will know, federal involvement in the lottery field has been and continues to be a major irritant in the area of federal-provincial relations. The manner of linking the sports pool proposal funding to the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, the use of an Order in Council to alter the terms of legislation passed by this House and the enormous administrative problems of the corporation since it was formed have convinced us further that, quite apart from the issue of jurisdiction, the Canada Sports Pool Corporation must be brought to an end.

● (1200)

I want to say in terms of the negotiations with the provinces, reflecting specifically on the issue of the Calgary Olympics to be held in 1988—and I am sure all Members join with me in wishing the organizers, the City of Calgary, and the residents of Alberta well in the preparations for the Olympics—that my colleague the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Jelinek) will be entering this debate later today to explain that position as well. Over the course of the previous government's life, countless measures of shared responsibility have been thrust on to the national agenda. In fact, it almost became one of the watchwords day by day in the House—that is, the difficulties, the controversies, or the confrontation that existed between the former government and the various provincial governments.

These measures have run the range from essentially housekeeping and administrative matters to those of split jurisdiction. That has gone all the way from minor legislation to the manner in which the patriation of our Constitution took place. While our recent history of federal-provincial negotiations has touched a wide range of unrelated issues, those negotiations have at the same time been characterized by one common denominator. That denominator we want to remove. Almost without exception these relationships have too often been acrimonious, confrontational and divisive. Through that process, Canadians have not been well served.

During the recent election campaign, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and all members of our Party made a com-