

Criminal Code

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Chairman, I rise not to expound on the positive actions of the Bill, which I have already done and of which there are many. However, my hon. friend, the hon. Member for York West, when he responded to my comments earlier, was allowed to ramble on about matters which I felt were somewhat unrelated to the Bill. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that I rose on a point of order to bring this to the Speaker's attention but the Hon. Member was allowed to continue debate. I must, therefore, stand in my place now and respond in kind to the misinterpretation and misleading statements put by the Hon. Member.

I am somewhat surprised because I have very often let the Hon. Member know that I have been disturbed that he has never put any questions to me in Question Period, or at other times when a response can be forthcoming. He seems to hide behind statements and press releases where a response to correct these misinterpretations can be forthcoming. When the Hon. Member is quite certain, as he was a few moments ago, that a response is impossible, then misleading words gush out of the Hon. Member's mouth like a flushed broken toilet. I know that the Hon. Member thought that there could not be a response because he was on his way out of the Chamber just a few moments ago. I did not want to speak behind his back and that is why I indicated to him across the floor to please stay. I would rather make my comments to his face than behind his back, which is his own practice.

The Hon. Member talked about this piece of legislation, Bill C-81, and he referred to the "noble" Sports Pool Corporation initiated by the previous Liberal Government. That "noble" Sports Pool Corporation not only went against an agreement between the federal Government and the provinces, thereby creating a major federal-provincial irritant, but it cost the Canadian taxpayers \$1.5 million a week. However, the Liberal Government continued to run the Sports Pool Corporation. It went on and on. If this Government had not been formed when it was, the Sports Pool lottery would probably still be in place and would still be losing 1.5 million tax dollars a week.

That is the reason, my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare and I, as one of the first steps of this Government last September, closed down the Sports Pool so that we could restore the co-operative spirit in federal and provincial relations and save the taxpayers the millions of dollars which otherwise would have been lost.

The Hon. Member for York West said that he was disturbed that Bill C-81 did not spell out how the \$100 million, which was the agreement signed last June 3, split the take, so to speak, from the provinces to the federal Government. I really have to scratch my head in wonder because nearly everything said by the Hon. Member is misleading—although I do not believe he is doing it intentionally. I just think he is totally misinformed. If the Hon. Member knew anything at all about what we were talking about, he would know it is the responsibility, as spelled out in the agreement of the Interprovincial Lottery Corporation to divide the profits and, therefore, the payments to the federal Government, according to the sales and profits of each province. It is not for the federal

Government to dictate to the provinces, telling them how to divide the loot, so to speak, as the Liberal Government used to do. It is up to the provinces themselves to decide as to how it is going to be done. If the Hon. Member would do his homework, he would find it is explained in the agreement which was signed between myself and the provincial lottery Ministers involved.

The Hon. Member also said that the Sports Pool was established to create funding for the Calgary Olympic Games. That is right, and it lost \$45 million. The Liberals did not know how to run the country and they did not know how to run a lottery. It was probably the first Government in the history of the world which established a lottery and lost \$1.5 million a week. Can you imagine that, Mr. Chairman?

Then the Hon. Member has the audacity to stand in his place, believing that no one will respond, and say: "If the Conservatives would close the Sports Pool down, how come they did not replace it with some other fund-raising event?" We closed it down in order to save the money. I, as Minister responsible for Fitness and Amateur Sport, went to the private sector and I am happy to report to the Hon. Member that in the last 12 months we have raised in the tens of millions of dollars of new funds from the private sector which are geared toward our young kids in amateur sports in this country. That is what we have done.

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Then he went on to say we had given away the shop to the provinces. In fact, we are saving tax dollars. In return for a portion of lottery profits we promised the provinces that they would have the lottery rights. That portion amounts to \$35 million a year. That amount is tied to the CPI which rises every year, although fortunately under a Conservative Government it will not rise as quickly because inflation will be less than it would be under the Liberals. As well, I was able to sign an agreement with the provinces for an additional \$100 million in return for this Bill. The Hon. Member forgot to talk about that.

Mr. Gauthier: Stick to the Bill.

Mr. Jelinek: The Hon. Member says: "Stick to the Bill". Where was he when his back-bencher was talking about soccer?

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, if the Minister wants to use his 20 minutes to make a partisan speech, he is quite welcome to do it. However, we will have to make the same kind of reply. I would warn him that he does not have the reputation of being very objective in his Bills. How about addressing Clause 1 which is before us right now?

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Chairman, I am surprised at the audacity of the Member. Obviously he was not here when the Hon. Member for York West—

Mr. Gauthier: I was here.