

ugly, garish display outside our Parliament buildings being put on as a big July 1 promotion merely to advance the causes of the Liberal Party.

● (1530)

It is high time Canadians realized what this is all about; it is a big political boondoggle on the part of the Liberal Government. It will not help Canadians by setting up yet another pool and by changing the Criminal Code to legalize gambling, while at the same time the RCMP will be entering into the gaming houses of the Chinese, who like to play fan-tan now and again, raiding church bingos and things like that. The Government abides by a double standard—one standard for the Government and another for the rest of us. It can do whatever it darn well pleases. The Government can advertise its lottery, doll it up and try to ram it down the throats of Canadians for its own selfish benefit. It is high time we put a stop to this.

What is wrong with encouraging volunteer organizations and medical causes to solicit funds under an income tax system which would allow Canadians the choice either to send money to the federal Government or to make contributions with a very healthy tax credit being extended to worthy causes? What is wrong with financing amateur sport, culture and medical research by getting people involved in direct participation, not by buying lottery tickets?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. The Chair will recognize the Hon. Member for Restigouche (Mr. Harquail) on a point of order.

Mr. Harquail: Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker made reference to Canada Day. I wonder if he could clarify for the House—

Mr. Taylor: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Harquail: Are you prepared to answer a question?

Mr. Siddon: I will answer a question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. That was not a point of order. There are occasions on which the Chair will recognize an Hon. Member who seeks unanimous consent of the House in order to put a question. Is there unanimous consent for the Hon. Member for Restigouche to put a question?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Harquail: Mr. Speaker, in his excitement and rhetoric the Hon. Member made reference to the Canada Day celebration taking place only in Ottawa. I wonder whether he would like to clarify that Canadians in British Columbia, the Province which he represents, will be acknowledging and celebrating Canada Day on July 1 in the usual manner in which we all celebrate this important occasion?

Mr. Siddon: Mr. Speaker, when I was much younger I used to attend parades, stand with pride at attention when our national anthem, "O Canada", was played, and watch the

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bands marching by. There were many functions put on by community organizations. They continue to sponsor such activities. In my constituency this year I will be riding in a parade with my children. The local community association will be putting on these functions. But it is a sign of the decadence in the country when the federal Government feels that the only way we can promote a sense of national pride is by throwing millions and millions of dollars worth of fireworks up in the air and by building grandiose backdrops in front of the Houses of Parliament. Indeed they are garish and contrary to the nature of our surroundings here.

To answer the Hon. Member for Restigouche (Mr. Harquail), Canadian identity and the celebration on July 1, whether we call it Canada Day or Dominion Day, is something which comes from the hearts and roots of Canadians. It is not something the Liberal Party can buy with any amount of money or grand displays.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Mr. Speaker, I want to participate in this particular stage of the proceedings because I think the amendment of the Hon. Member for St. Catharines (Mr. Reid) allows us to target in one of the important issues in this piece of legislation.

It has been maintained by spokespeople on behalf of the Government that this legislation is absolutely essential for the Calgary Winter Olympics which will be held in 1988 and that without this legislation federal funding will not be forthcoming. That is the essence of the position taken by the Government. It calls, that tune with a sense of déjà vu in terms of the last time we were called upon to establish a lottery or gambling in the name of the federal Government to deal with the Montreal Olympics.

Therefore I think the motion of my colleague is a very appropriate one. He is giving the Government the opportunity to establish its little lottery or game on a national front, with all the signals it will send out to the people of the country, particularly our youth. It allows the Government to bankroll the Calgary Olympics and specifically indicates that when the Olympics have been dealt with and the contribution of the federal Government to the Olympics has been completed, the lottery will be null and void and have no further consequences. What could be more reasonable than that proposition?

I would like to ask rhetorically what kind of priorities there are in a government which, in the dying days of this part of the session, brings forward a Bill to deal with sports pools? When we have unprecedented unemployment and unemployment among youth and students of the country has reached record proportions, what kind of political philosophy would be behind a government which sets as its priority a Bill to create a national lottery? We have to ask ourselves these questions. If all the energy, attention and dedication of the Government were directed toward job creation for the youth of Canada, what would be the result? They are now resigned to holding demonstrations in cities and towns across the country.