

been infringed so that the Chair may determine whether debate should be pursued on the hon. member's point.

Mr. Bawden: I shall not pursue the point any further, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING DEFINITION, ADMINISTRATION AND OFFENCES

The House resumed, from Wednesday, March 20, consideration of the motion of Mr. Gray that Bill C-7 to amend the Combines Investigation Act and the Bank Act and to repeal an act to amend an act to amend the Combines Investigation Act and the Criminal Code, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, when this subject was last debated I had barely touched the part of the bill dealing with sports, and amateur sports specifically. On that occasion I said that there used to be only six teams in the NHL. *Hansard*, as recorded at page 720, indicates I said there were only 16 teams in the NHL. Obviously, the *Hansard* people are not hockey fans of old time standing because it is a well known fact that in days gone by there were six teams and there are now 16 teams in the NHL.

I was leading up to the subject of hockey, amateur sports and the question of amateurs being signed to contracts. Basically, the situation we have in Canada is that the NHL pays a sum of money to the amateur teams for the development of capable hockey players, those who would be able to play in the NHL. Now, we have the World Hockey League which is grabbing off some of the players without making any payment to the local teams which developed the players. This, to me, is a weakness in the present situation. I believe competition will soon take care of this, but if it should not then we will see the development of professional junior hockey teams. The CAHA has failed to make any strong move in this regard when dealing with the World Hockey League. There are rumours in western Canada that there might be a senior-junior professional hockey league formed, and in that case the juniors would be signed and would be the property of the team for which they were playing.

Now, before everybody jumps on the bandwagon and says what a sinful thing that would be, let me point out that many juniors who now play in the NHL or the WHA previously spent plenty of time in perhaps three minor leagues. Someone suggests that those leagues are even semi-professional. The junior leagues in Canada today are semi-professional. Let us take a look at these young hockey players. Canada basically is the talent area for the professional teams on the North American continent.

Competition Bill

There are 12 teams in the World Hockey League and 16 in the NHL.

It is necessary that we help keep alive and encourage the junior, juvenile and midget hockey teams, and the NHL and the WHL should pay something for the development of the talent these leagues provide. Today there are thousands of active people all across Canada who take their kids to hockey school and to hockey games. These people who are keeping the kids healthy, keeping them off the street and contributing to the pool of hockey talent, should be given some help. These thousands of citizens do this, of course, for the benefit of hockey but also for the benefit of young Canadians. I believe the CAHA has failed to ensure in some way that the local teams, as far down the line as even midget, receive some benefit for the development of this talent. If this is not done we will see a professional junior hockey league.

I read an interview with the owner and coach of the Calgary Centennials, one of the better western junior hockey teams. He advocated professional junior hockey teams. He said this is coming. Why did he say that? Because he was very annoyed that the World Hockey League and the NHL intend to grab off three of his stars this year. They intend to take three of his stars and give the Calgary Centennials very little in return. Sometimes these kids have spent five years in organized hockey in the city of Calgary. This has been possible because of the contribution made by volunteer workers. These volunteers are not prepared to continue to deliver the talent unless there is some compensation. If we had professional junior hockey teams these would sign up all those teenagers. This may be the way we will have to go in order to protect the volunteer work that has gone into the development of the athletes which Canada has proven to have such an ability to produce in the field of hockey. I do not think this would be all bad. I believe we must protect and maintain that community of interest and spirit which has developed so many good hockey players and good hockey teams in the past.

While speaking on this particular aspect, I should like to say a few words about the controversy which is taking place in the football field. At one time there were two national football leagues in the United States, the AFL and the NFL. These two leagues have now amalgamated and formed a conglomerate of something like 16 professional teams. Now, we hear about the starting up of the World Football League. It really does not matter whether the Toronto Northmen get off the ground. It is a fact that on the North American continent there will be 10 or 12 more professional football teams whether or not the Toronto Northmen are allowed by this government to operate. A fellow by the name of Davidson has substantially proven the fact that he has a hold on the World Football League which will have ten or 12 teams on the North American continent.

An hon. Member: Are you in favour of it?

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): I will get to that in a moment. Let us work from that premise. There are 26 teams in a conglomerate now playing professional football in the United States and nine in Canada. There will be an additional 10 or 12 teams on the North American continent