

*Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act*

This clause proves the point exactly. The Government has gone out to the organizers and officials of those fifteenth Olympics which are not to be held until 1988 and has them upset over the fact that they will not get their money. Does that not just prove the point that the Cabinet will use that leverage and blackmail to get the people to pressure others to do things that are not correct legally, morally or by any other test? Therefore, the Cabinet is in fact capable of blackmail. That is what is happening with this Bill tonight, and I will not vote for it. The Government will simply not get it through.

In fact, the money for the fifteenth Winter Olympics was promised by the Government and it has no right to tie that Calgary Olympic money to a gaming lottery that is illegal for everyone in society except the Government.

**An Hon. Member:** Are you going to support the amendment or not?

**Mr. Thacker:** The Government should stand up as an honest and decent Government to say that Calgary will get the Olympic support. We, as Canadians, all pay tax dollars and we are prepared to have that money allocated there.

**Mr. Fisher:** Will you add to the deficit?

**Mr. Thacker:** We pay a lot of tax dollars.

**Mr. Fisher:** Will you add to the deficit?

• (2220)

**Mr. Thacker:** Every time the Government brings out a program there should be a corresponding tax so the citizens of the nation have a choice. We should have that one provision in our laws and governments that honour it.

If you remember, Mr. Speaker, in 1968 we had balanced budgets. We had a small national debt, yet we had a sound old age security system. We had guaranteed supplements, we had hospital insurance, we had post-secondary education and we had medicare. In 1968, we had all of the social programs and we still had balanced budgets. We had a small national debt. We had that because we had a productive society. Everybody was working and paying in a fair share of the taxes. The money was being redistributed. The only time we got into trouble was by following the Pied Piper. We were led down the garden path. The Government proposed programs and said, "Folks, you can keep your low capitalist tax because we are simply borrowing it." At first, only 5 per cent went to service the debt, then 15 per cent, then 20 per cent, then 25 per cent, and now over 30 per cent of every tax dollar has to service the debt. While the Government was getting us into the problem, we had enormously good programs, low capitalist tax, but the Government was borrowing the difference. Now the taxes are rising to meet the programs. People do not have the cash flow and they are dropping like flies. It is predictable. It is because they were led into a trap. We had the illusion of wealth when we did not have wealth at all. Now we are paying the penalty. Regretfully, because of the actions of that Government, because of those creeps opposite, our children and our grandchildren will have to accept a substantially reduced standard of living.

**Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster):** Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on the amendment put forward by the Hon. Member for St. Catharines (Mr. Reid). If this Bill has any meaning at all, I am sure we will hear from the Minister who is now in the House and we will hear from other Members on the Government side as to their feelings on this amendment.

This amendment makes specific within this Bill something which the Minister, his Cabinet colleagues and Members on the Government side have been maintaining since the inception of this Bill. This Bill is specifically, without exception we hear, to promote the fifteenth Winter Olympics to be held in Calgary. We will be pleased to see the Minister and all his colleagues on the Government side voting to support this Bill because they have been telling the people of Calgary and the people of Canada that the only rationale for Bill C-95, the sport pools Bill, is for the Olympic games to be held in Calgary.

By definition the Winter Olympics to be held in Calgary in 1988 are a special event. We have never had Winter Olympics in Canada. If this is a special Bill for a special event, the Winter Olympics, then I can accept it. But we have culture and art in this country on a daily ongoing basis. We have fitness and amateur sport on a daily, yearly, ongoing basis. We have medical health and research on a daily, yearly, ongoing basis. Why are these specifics, medical health and research, fitness and amateur sport, arts and culture, not funded the way other programs are in our country? Why are they not funded with tax dollars? Why is the Government's revenue not used in an ordinary way for things that we have in our country on a daily basis? Why would the Government attach these things that are so important to the daily lives of Canadians to something that is special, a world class event such as the Calgary Olympics?

When the Minister made his proposal to the International Olympic Committee that Calgary would host, with the assistance of the federal Government, the fifteenth Olympiad, I am sure he did not have in place the legislation for a sports pool, I am sure he did not have in place the legislation for the stamps, and I am sure he did not have in place the legislation in place to stamp medals and medallions. What he did say was that the federal Government, in conjunction with the Province of Alberta and the municipality of the City of Calgary, would provide the funds necessary to sponsor and look after the fifteenth Olympiad. It is the same in any small part of Canada, in my riding of Kindersley-Lloydminster, that if a community wishes to go ahead with a project, it would be expected to provide some of the funding. The Province would expect to provide some of the funding. For projects of a larger size, the federal Government would be asked to become involved.

I have not seen any record in any debates in the House of Commons that there had to be a special lottery, a sports pool, made available so the citizens in other communities in Canada could benefit from a facility that would provide daily and