

Senator Perrault: Any suggestion that the money provided for sport has somehow disappeared into the ozone is completely untrue.

Senator Nurgitz: As a supplementary question, I take it the minister is undertaking to provide the names of the groups that benefited from the arrangement, and the dollar extent of their benefit?

Senator Perrault: We are attempting to ascertain where the dollars were spent, and we committed ourselves—and I use the word “we” meaning the department—to providing Mr. Paproski with the information he requested at that committee meeting.

Senator Nurgitz: As a further supplementary question, I take it that when the minister appeared before the committee of the other place it was indicated that the funds raised by the lotteries had found their way into the general revenue as opposed to a designated fund for distribution to these various groups? Is it the minister's understanding now that from 1983 forward these funds will not—that is, the \$12 million indexed to 1979 levels—find their way into the general revenue, but will find their way directly to the various sports groups?

Senator Perrault: First of all, I assure honourable senators that there has been no diversion of funds. Some of the sports pool revenues as a result of the 1979 agreement was put into the general revenue, but a large amount of the money has been spent on sports activities since that date. An example of that is the commitment of up to \$200 million to the Winter Olympic Games to be held in Calgary. That is a substantial commitment, and is certainly a demonstration of good faith on the part of this government.

Furthermore, I wish to add, honourable senators, that the Calgary—

Senator Flynn: Oh, come on!

Senator Perrault: —Winter Olympic Games will see up to \$200 million invested in non-discretionary amounts by various government departments. It is really a massive commitment on the part of the federal government.

Senator Flynn: We are not asking you anything about that.

Senator Perrault: There has been no diversion of moneys.

A report is now being prepared by officials of the department, and as soon as it is completed I will present it to the Senate.

● (2015)

Senator Nurgitz: I have a final supplementary question, and I shall try to make it simple.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): It will not change the reply.

Senator Nurgitz: The fact is that initially the funds went into the general revenue. My question to the minister is: From 1983 forward, will the funds go into the general revenue and then be distributed to the various sports groups, or will they be

[Senator Flynn.]

held in a separate fund for the groups for whom they are intended?

Senator Perrault: The future policy is in the process of development.

Hon. Lowell Murray: So is the future.

Senator Perrault: Personally, I hold the view, which is probably shared by the senator who has a great interest in sports and fitness, that far more should be spent on fitness programs in this nation. Fitness is the best preventive medicine there is. Millions of dollars are spent every year in this country to meet the costs of social problems which are the results of an unfit population.

Senator Flynn: Let us speak of social programs now.

Senator Perrault: I hope that more than the technical amount realized from that 1979 agreement can be spent on promoting fitness.

Senator Nurgitz: May I take it then that the minister is stating that the funds will not go into the general revenue?

Senator Perrault: I will make a statement, and I know it will be heartening to all honourable senators. Indeed even the cynical Leader of the Opposition will take joy from it.

Senator Flynn: The more he talks the less sense he makes.

CANADA POST CORPORATION

CANADIAN BROCHURES POSTED IN UNITED STATES

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government concerning the initiative taken by the Stratford Festival to mail 85,000 brochures in Detroit, thereby saving \$75,000. Would the Leader of the Government advise us if it is legal for Canadians to mail brochures or letters across the border?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I will have to take that question as notice. First of all, Senator Marshall asked for a legal opinion which, of course, ministers are more or less prevented from offering even if they know—

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Unless it serves their purpose.

Senator Olson: Even when the Leader of the Opposition was the Minister of Justice, and the legal adviser to the government, he consistently and, quite properly, refrained from giving a legal opinion until he—

Senator Flynn: You cannot prove that.

Senator Olson: Well, I used to sit over there and ask these questions.

Senator Flynn: But you have a very poor memory.

Senator Olson: The deputy leader, who was rather astute at asking those questions, almost invariably got the same reply that I am giving now. I have had a good teacher.

Senator Flynn: I challenge you to find that in *Hansard*.