

if Conservative Members keep digging in their heels and opposing the Bill.

The fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is that we believe the Calgary Olympics can be funded and that the federal Government has a responsibility to share in the cost of those games, but there are various ways of financing such initiatives. The best and most direct means of doing so in the case of something as important and prestigious to Calgary and all of Canada as the Olympics would be to introduce a tax credit system that is the same as the one that operates in the financing of political parties in the country.

The Government could have allowed a 75 per cent tax credit on all contributions up to \$200 from Canadians at large who would contribute to the Calgary Olympics. Then we would not have had to award patronage to all friends of the Liberal Party who want to build computer machines and earn commissions and set up stands in shopping centres. We would not have had to spend all of that money on advertising. We would not have had to con the Canadian people into thinking that they can get rich quick, therefore setting a standard of moral corruption on the part of the Government which runs in total contradiction to all of the progressive measures of taxation legislation that this Government and many of its predecessors have established over the years.

By a mere amendment to the Income Tax Act, the Government could attract millions of dollars for the Calgary Olympics and other worthy causes. This simple amendment would make it possible for people who contribute to charity to opt between sending a significant portion of their dollars to Ottawa or to some worthy cause. I guarantee that this would eliminate a whole layer of unnecessary bureaucracy here in Ottawa. It would allow Cabinet Ministers to take charge again of the important tasks for which they are responsible instead of wasting their energies on such corruption as a sports lottery.

I believe the Minister should hand his head in shame because, in fact, what he is doing runs totally contrary to the whole thrust and intent of the Family Allowance system, the Child Tax Credit system, our federal-provincial agreements on welfare payments, the Unemployment Insurance system, the old age pension system, the guaranteed annual income system for those in need, and all of our social support systems, Mr. Speaker. In particular, the very progressive nature of our income tax structure as represented in the tax table is being contravened by this measure that will get the Government of Canada back into the lottery business. We reject this initiative without equivocation even though, as the Hon. Member for St. Catharines pointed out, we cannot go on obstructing all summer. If this is the Government's only way, in its obstinacy, to see to it that the people of western Canada are not left carrying the can for the Calgary Olympics, then I suppose we will have to let the measure go through.

• (1250)

Mark my words, Mr. Speaker, just as Loto Canada failed, just as Loto Select failed even before it got off the ground after the Government wasted \$37 million on that boondoggle, this sports pool corporation will also fail. My colleague has wished

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it well, but if I have anything to say in the next Government of Canada, I will ensure that this type of corrupt initiative is replaced with proper and progressive amendments to the Income Tax Act. We must ensure that volunteer organizations are again funded by Canadians giving of their own free will and not by those who want to get rich quick by taking a chance on a lottery ticket.

In the course of the debate many statistics have been produced to show that those who buy lottery tickets are people at the low end of the income scale. The Minister shakes his head but he knows full well that those who are most careful with their money, the shrewd investors in society, the successes in society, do not buy lottery tickets. He knows that it is the people who get a welfare cheque who buy lottery tickets. They think they have a chance because they see on television or read about some elderly couple who won a million dollars and so they tend to feel that they too have chance, even though the odds are something like 10 million to one against their winning. The odds against happiness after winning are great as well. Nonetheless, the Government is enticing people who can least afford it to buy tickets. Every time they walk into a shopping mall or go to a sporting even or turn on the television, they are coerced and persuaded by the Government of Canada, with that nice, neat, official Liberal logo, to buy lottery tickets. That reflects the moral bankruptcy and corruption of this Government.

When we couple this move with the introduction of electronics into gaming and see the potential for abuse—for outright fraud by people who know how to write computer programs—and when we connect that with some of the people who will be licensed to sell tickets, we see the potential for harm. The concessionaires with license to sell the tickets are usually good friends of the Liberal Party. When we couple that with the people who get the contract to build the systems, like a constituent of mine who is looking for the contract to build these systems and happens to be a former Liberal Cabinet Minister by the name of Cafik, we see the potential for abuse if there is no requirement for public accountability.

I suggest there is the possibility of a major scam being perpetrated, not in the Government's official name, but by people who would stoop to that. The system can be rigged, Mr. Speaker. We have not been convinced that there will be control over the issuance of vouchers. Anyone can program a computer to spew out a lot of extra tickets. There will be no control on the odds; they will just keep selling tickets because they want to raise money for worthy causes.

If the wrong people intervene in the system—and here we are getting into the area of computer crime—a lot of money can be siphoned out of the system. That is why one of the amendments put forward by this Party asked that the books and accounts of the Sports Canada Corporation should be fully audited and scrutinized by the Auditor General. We find it strange that the Government rejected that amendment, just as it rejected our amendment to ensure that the funds would go first to the Calgary Olympics. The Government also rejected