

Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act

These are just some of the ways and means of correcting the existing problem, whether it is on an ongoing basis for fitness and amateur sports, or specifically, as motion No. 3 stated, that there should be funding for the Calgary Olympics.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I just want to reiterate my total opposition to any type of lottery or sports pool. I think it is degrading, downgrading and certainly not in the spirit of athletic sports and the Olympics. If I had more time I could expand on the many recommendations available to this Parliament and the Government in order to assist the arts and amateur sports in general.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I will try and keep my comments fairly brief, but I cannot help but get involved to a certain extent in this debate. It is important because it involves one of the most important activities in this country, the field of Olympic athletics. I cannot help but recall that it was not too long ago that one of the Ministers on that side of the House got up and was trying to tell Members on this side of the House that this proposed sports pool had something to do with skill. I cannot recall quite how he put it but he was trying to tell us that there was some kind of skill involved in winning these sports pools.

Mr. Mayer: Anything that the Liberals do does not involve skill.

Mr. Fulton: Let me make it quite clear that I find the whole Bill quite immoral and improper, and I am confident all Members on this side, and I would hope a few on that side, will vote against it. To try and mix this legislation with the kind of athletics we are talking about here, which involve skills—it takes a whole lifetime to try and become an Olympic athlete—with the sort of Las Vegas type atmosphere which is associated with this legislation, I think is quite wrong.

Let me deal for a moment with Clause 21 of this Bill, which I think all Members of this House have to reflect on carefully and support; that is, to have the Auditor General do an annual audit of the books of this kind of operation. If Government Members see fit to vote it through, the morality of the legislation rests on the Government side alone because I think most Canadians will recognize it is not appropriate legislation for the Olympics or anything else.

On top of all that, for Government Members to get up and vote against an annual audit is wrong. I think the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans), after wagging his tongue behind the curtains for so long, has the duty to Parliament to get up and give a speech on the points being raised in this House and as to why the Government feels so strongly that this legislation should go through. For example, Consolidated Computers, just one company, lost \$125 million down the chute. The Government is trying to convince us and Canadians generally that it is responsible enough in setting up various Crown corporations. We all recognize that it cannot even run the computer side of it, and the sports pool is going to involve the use of computers. Therefore, we have a certain degree of

alarm that another \$100 million or more will be lost just on the computer side.

• (1630)

However, to go further—and other Hon. Members have touched on this—what about the amount of money which will be going into advertising? Are we discussing \$1 million, \$5 million or \$10 million? It is very important that Hon. Members be apprised of this through the good offices of the Auditor General, who can dig into the books and ferret out, in a comprehensive way for the Members of the House, where the money is really going.

It is clear that all of us on this side of the House do not agree with the Bill to begin with, but we are requesting one of the very basic tenets. There is a responsibility on the Government side, that of the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Lamontagne) or one of the other Government Members who are here, to rise and tell us why they do not think an amendment such as this should be carried in the House. Why should there not be an audit? Why should the Canadian public not know whether only 10 cents or 15 cents out of every dollar is actually getting back to pay for what has been proposed, whether the Calgary Olympics, Olympic activities associated with it, or the training or transportation of athletes and coaches? There is a real responsibility which is being let down day after day in this particular Parliament.

Hon. Members on the Government side will rise and vote against amendments that I think would be supported by any Canadian who is stopped on the street and told: "Bill C-95 is the Sports Pool Bill. We do not know whether you agree with it or not but, in terms of just this one principle, do you think it should be audited by an accounting system that is approved by the Parliament of Canada, and that is through the Auditor General?" I am confident that all Canadians would agree with that.

Another point which has been touched on many times, one which Government Members must sit down for a moment to reflect upon, concerns where the money is coming from. It is easy enough to put up billboards and say: "We are setting up a sports pool to obtain money for athletes, for the Calgary Olympics and for other reasons". However, Hon. Members to my right have pointed out that studies not only in Canada but also in Japan and other areas of the world where there are lotteries and gambling of this type have proven time after time that to an overwhelming extent the money comes from poor people who are attempting to sort of bet against the odds of their lives. They are hoping that at some point \$1 million or \$500,000 or \$100,000 will suddenly come to them. I think we all know that that is not how the world works. The Hon. Member who spoke previously pointed out that one is more likely to be struck by lightning riding a bicycle—

Mr. Mayer: Twice!

Mr. Fulton:—twice likely to be struck by lightning riding a bicycle across the Prairies, or for that matter standing here in