

*Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act*

I am also here to support this Bill because of the gobbledegook we have heard from the Tories and NDP about how this is a tax on the poor, how we are forcing the poor to support activities in which the wealthy will participate. I have never taken the view that because you are poor you are ipso facto stupid. I resent the argument that if you are poor, you are too stupid to know whether you should buy lottery tickets or participate in a sports pool. I want it on record that I do not believe that poverty is synonymous with stupidity.

**Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North):** Mr. Speaker, I will not take too much time as I know others want to speak and we may be able to get this Bill through. As Conservatives, we like to co-operate. The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) is in the Chamber. Are you now in charge of lotteries? Am I to understand that the Minister of National Health and Welfare is in charge of lotteries? I hear you really want lotteries in Health and Welfare. Do you really think that lotteries are the greatest thing in the world for research?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. Will the Hon. Member please direct his remarks to the Chair.

**Mr. Paproski:** I want to expand a little on what was said by my hon. friend from Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne). It will cost the Government \$55 million up front money to get into this so-called sports pool. Nothing like that has been mentioned here.

The Minister of State for International Trade (Mr. Regan), who is in charge of lotteries, had the greatest opportunity in the world in the last three years to sit down with his provincial counterparts in charge of lotteries. He could have told him that we would be bidding for the Winter Olympics, and whether Calgary, Vancouver or somewhere else got it, we will need one or two lotteries that go directly to funding the olympics. Do you know what the provincial people would have said if the Minister had had the courtesy to call them together or visit them? They would have said that they wanted to support the Olympics. They would have been delighted to give him three or four draws annually from their lotteries in order to help the various sporting events and the games in Calgary.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** On a point of order.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Northumberland-Miramichi will know that there is a ten-minute period allowed. His point of order should be a point of order.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** My point of order is that I believe the Hon. Member is inadvertently misleading the House. I am sure he would not do it deliberately. He is suggesting that if the Minister had negotiated, he could have reversed the give-away that this Minister made when he was Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Paproski:** I am really surprised at the Hon. Member for Northumberland-Miramichi. He should stick to transport. He

is a great Chairman of the Transport Committee, but he should forget about lotteries. He is so far behind that he thinks he is first.

I will repeat only one more time that I do not know who made the studies for this Minister. I am sure they are sitting in the gallery and gloating. They spent a whole year and close to a million dollars studying the different games to see whether they could do something about getting into Loto Select, the loto pool, gambling or whatever it is.

The Minister hopes this will not go through because it will cost \$55 million. Will he go to Cabinet and ask for \$55 million or will he take the money that the poor people from Fitness and Amateur Sport were supposed to get? The Minister now has \$47 million in the kitty and \$16.5 million of that lottery fund is supposed to go for scholarships for our athletes. It is in there, but it will not go to the athletes.

The Minister should have had the courtesy to talk to his provincial counterparts. Before we began this debate today I had the opportunity to talk with three or four of the Ministers concerned. They told me they would have been delighted to hear from him, but they have not heard from him in three years. This guy is going out on his own and doing these things by himself. He will have to go to his Cabinet colleagues and tell them it will cost \$55 million up front money to start this game of chance, this betting game, this double tax. He will ask them to help him out because he cannot start this poker game until he has \$55 million on the table. We will have to watch this Minister because he is a cagey one. He left Fitness and Amateur Sport and now he is in International Trade. God only knows where he will be after the next election.

• (1740)

**Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I find it rather interesting that the Hon. Member for Edmonton North (Mr. Paproski) is talking about the Minister, the former Secretary of State, presenting this Bill to the House. Where is the Secretary of State (Mr. Joyal)? What relationship has the Minister of State for International Trade (Mr. Regan) to the lotteries? He has better things to do so that this country can sell its products. I think the truth of the matter is, he happens to be from Halifax and the current Secretary of State happens to be from Quebec, and probably does not agree with this Bill because he knows it is unpopular in his Province. That is a good point that we should keep in mind.

I have finally found out what are the skills of the Minister of State for International Trade. His skills are picking out who is going to win the hockey game. Thank God, he has some skills!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** With respect to the Hon. Member, there is a rule of relevance in debate in relation to the subject matter before us. The Chair suggests to the Hon. Member that possibly the subject matter of the motion might be spoken to.

**Mr. Fennell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think you will acknowledge that I am usually relevant. I was just getting