

Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act

earmarked for the purposes of offsetting any projected deficit arising from the Calgary Olympics, as was the original intention of Loto Canada when it was established in 1976. It was established solely to meet any liability arising from the Olympics in Montreal which we know now approached a cost of \$1 billion.

From my point of view I must say that I share the views expressed by many Members of this House that this Government appears to be bankrupt, not only financially but morally. I do not want to get into a debate of chance taking per se. I guess it is an accepted position in our country and it is part of our heritage that people have tossed for lots and taken chances in various types of games and taken chances in terms of advancing their own station in life through what we in this Party advocate, namely the free enterprise system.

I am not opposed to chance taking by individuals operating in a free society where they can afford to take such chances with their own money. But I am certainly opposed to a government which advocates and encourages chance taking by those in society who can least afford to. In that respect the thrust of this proposed legislation and the long-term consequences, far beyond the time when the Calgary Olympics are over and forgotten, of implementing the kind of legislation which says that by changing the Criminal Code the federal Government can essentially violate the law by all traditional standards, yet no one else can, reveals the moral bankruptcy of the Government opposite.

The Government talks about raising something like \$100 million a year net for the purposes set out in the legislation. Four items to which these revenues are directed are fitness and amateur sport, arts and culture, medical and health research, and finally—and it is interesting that this is the final priority according to the order of items as set out in the legislation—support for the Calgary Olympics. One wonders why it is that the Calgary Olympics were not the sole purpose of presenting this legislation.

I have to suspect, as other Members in this House do, that the Government's game plan, in a manner of speaking, extends far beyond any suggestion that the Calgary Olympics might require a little help. The focus on helping to offset the cost of the Calgary Olympics is merely a red herring, a form of blackmail of this House, in order to justify a major change and is an example of more stupidity on the part of this Government. In fact, it will be disruptive of and counter to the whole social support system that we have established in this country.

From where does the Government think this \$100 million a year is going to come, Mr. Speaker? The Government knows full well this money will come from the pockets of ordinary Canadians, largely speaking those who have been down and out most of their lives and are looking for that one chance in a lifetime to make it big. Those are the people having trouble putting food on the table for their children, meeting mortgage payments and so on. They are faced with unemployment, their businesses are going bankrupt, they are desperate. Yet they are the ones who will buy a football lottery ticket condoned by the federal Government. That just reveals the degree of moral bankruptcy which is so evident to so many Canadians when a

government goes to great lengths to evolve a progressive income tax system with all kinds of deductions, exemptions and tax credits for those who need help the most, single parents, old age pensioners, people unemployed and those living on the welfare system.

Where do you think these people will go with their welfare cheques, Mr. Speaker, if every time they walk into a shopping centre, go to a sporting event or turn on a television set they are bombarded with a pitch for the new Canada sports pool promoted by our friend, the Hon. Member for Halifax (Mr. Regan), who thinks it is such a great idea? Where do you think the money is going to come from, Mr. Speaker? It will come from the pockets of those who need it. In that respect it is just merely a form of veiled and regressive taxation against the poor and down trodden in our society.

Where will the money go, Mr. Speaker? We know that no more than 30 per cent of it will go to the so-called good works which the Government has been advocating. I might add there are many other ways to raise money for these good works. Many of them should be legitimately funded but not by some phony windfall mechanism called a sport lottery.

In referring back to the record of Loto Canada for a moment, it is interesting to note that in the year 1977 Loto Canada took in \$225 million of revenue of which only \$3.7 million, or 1.6 per cent, went to promote fitness and amateur sport. Of the balance, \$25 million went to advertising and promotion. The remainder went to wholesalers' commissions, prize money and the Olympic debt. If the prize money only amounts to about 30 per cent, it is obvious that a lot of this money will go down the tube in the form of unnecessary advertising, contracts and commissions to friends of the Liberal Party, nothing more. Let us be honest about it, it is nothing more than a blatant instrument of patronage.

Mr. Ian Howard, who was a great friend of the former Member for Skeena, happened to become chairman of the Loto Canada Corporation because of his Liberal connections. There is no other reason. He went around the country letting contracts to commission salesmen, to various companies, squandering public money merely as a means of exercising and administering patronage and leverage over many organizations and individuals in Canadian society and to reward those who had done favours for and served the Liberal Party. I make that statement as an allegation.

I suggest that what the Government is attempting to do here is to strip away the limited resources poor people have. This totally contradicts and invalidates the Family Allowance Program, the Child Tax Credit, welfare, UIC, and all of those programs of benefit to those Canadians who need them. The Government will grab the money and collect it in the form of a multimillion dollar fund which the Government calls just a mere game, a little fun on the side for Canadians. It will be promoted with red and white flags and stands and little Canadian Liberal logos in the corner of every piece of literature. Canadians are getting sick and tired of this kind of display, just as some Canadians will be sickened by that big,