

[English]

REQUEST FOR FUNDING GUARANTEE

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport. What I would like from this Minister, Mr. Speaker, is a guarantee, the kind of guarantee which this Party has given, that the Calgary Olympics will receive the necessary funding, that they will not have to depend upon the Sports Pool Corporation, the bungling of this Minister, or these grits at the hog trough, the pork barrel, who are running the sports pool and costing us millions. Will the Minister make a simple commitment that the Government will guarantee the Calgary Olympics will have the necessary funding, regardless of what happens to the Minister's sports pool?

[Translation]

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, this Government has set up a program aimed at helping the Calgary Olympic Games through either Olympic coins, stamps or sports pools. This Government does honour its commitments and we have signed a contract with the Calgary-1988 organization committee to promote those Olympic Games. We have promised to come up with \$200 million and, as a responsible Government, we intend to abide by our contract.

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[English]

POOLS

CANADA SPORTS POOL CORPORATION—FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport. Parliament has voted \$10.5 million to the care of the Minister for the sports pool. There is evidence that money has gone. There is evidence to indicate that the losses will exceed \$25 million a year. What the Minister does not understand is that he is accountable to Parliament for that money.

Mr. Crombie: Right.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McGrath: That is the issue, Mr. Speaker. We have a right, indeed we have an obligation, to ask this incompetent Minister how much more money will Parliament be required to vote to bail out the Minister and the sports pool.

[Translation]

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is not going to get a better answer to his question by calling me incompetent. I do not deny the Opposition its right to know the facts. However, I do deny the Opposition the right to try and

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discredit this Corporation. I recognize the rights of the Opposition. I recognize the right of the House of Commons to be informed. What I object to is, that the Opposition should knowingly discredit . . . And as soon as the Opposition decides to act responsibly, clear and specific answers will be forthcoming.

[English]

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, the Minister does not seem to understand that this Corporation was discredited the day it started, because it was in violation of a federal-provincial agreement.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McGrath: That is what the Minister does not understand.

REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I ask the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, Sir, if he has nothing to hide will he agree to a parliamentary inquiry into this slush pool, at a time when millions of dollars are being squandered and when 800,000 young people out there are crying for jobs?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, I have just said it again and I shall say it a third time . . . Pursuant to the Act, we have made a commitment to spend \$10.5 million. We have complied with the Act and we shall continue to do so. Furthermore, as far as job creation is concerned, we are among the governments that have spent the most on job creation for young people. We spent \$1.2 billion! So I do not think Hon. Members should start confusing youth and the sports pool. Youth has never been involved in the sports pool. What you are trying to do is to . . . athletes across Canada—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Olivier: —You are denying their right to have an income! What you are saying is that we reneged on an agreement made in 1979. Mr. Speaker, we maintain that we have observed and are observing the 1979 agreement. The proof is that we created the Canadian Sports Pool Corporation. We knew right away that if we observed the agreement, it would be easier than having just a lottery.

Mr. La Salle: You are competing with the provinces!

Mr. Olivier: —You will see for yourself that it is not a lottery, it is a sports pool and it is harder to do.