

Criminal Code

One thing that this bill will correct is this. During the month of August when racing does not take place in Toronto and the horses are at Fort Erie, which averages 5,000 to 8,000 people per day, still 41,000 copies of the *Racing Form* are sold in Toronto. Surely with telephone betting, with inter-track betting and the big screen, some of those 30,000 people who are now contributing to the welfare of the underground and the scoundrels who are bookies will instead place their bets honestly. This bill is a blow to bookies, Mr. Speaker.

I should like to quote a statement made by Mr. Don Winter-ton, the former chief of police of the city of Vancouver. He stated:

I have reviewed the general regulations which were proposed for telephone account betting, and feel they will be a help in controlling illegal bookmaking activities as they apply to horse racing. It has been my experience that most people when provided with a legal alternative to an illegal activity, will choose the legal avenue. Consequently, I would expect that telephone account wagering could significantly reduce illegal bookmaking on horse racing, thus diverting revenue from the underworld to the racing industry and to provincial governments.

I am fully supported in this matter by Harold Adamson, former chief of police of metropolitan Toronto.

That is what the former chief of police thinks.

If we are to eliminate the illegal bookies totally and drive them out of business, the next stage must also be contemplated by government if only to allow the provinces to decide for themselves. The Government of Ontario is in favour of off-track betting and would introduce it. That is the next stage. Off-track betting must come and it will remove the leech of the bookmaker from legitimate racing. The bookie contributes nothing to the support of racing or to provincial revenues, but off-track wagering could contribute substantially to provincial revenues.

Is there any real reason in this day and age why people of this country should not be allowed to make a small wager on the Kentucky Derby, the Japanese Cup, the Queen's Plate, the British Columbia Derby, the Arlington Million, the Longacres mile or a number of races in Europe? Those events could be brought in by television, although the regulations proposed by the Minister of Agriculture do not permit it at this time. Hopefully he and his officials will see the light and realize that it is good for the sport to have maximum exposure of some of the finest horses to be seen in the world.

● (1250)

Let us turn to something else. Let us turn to the major danger facing racing and one of the main reasons this legislation was eventually brought about. I refer to the despicable question of lotteries. Let me go over some of our lotteries and give some indication of what the individual person is up against. Super Loto, \$10 per ticket; the top prize, \$1 million; the odds, 800,000 to one. The Provincial lottery, the top prize, \$500,000; the odds 800,000 to one. Wintario, for a dollar, the top prize, \$100,000; the odds, one million to one. Lottario, for \$1 and up; the top prize fluctuates weekly; the odds on winning are 3.2 million to one. The Cash for Life lottery, for the \$2 ticket, the top prize \$50,000 per year for life, taxable, or \$300,000 lump sum, non-taxable; the odds, 1.4 million to one.

The Pot of Gold lottery, a \$2 ticket, the top prize \$100,000; the odds one million to one.

Let us deal with the newest little gimmick, Loto 6/49. If you think you are lucky, Mr. Speaker, really lucky, here is your chance to prove it. With odds of 13 million to one, you can risk a buck to win a million in Canada's latest lottery. Loto 6/49 was introduced on June 4 of this year. It is similar to Lottario, except that the odds are longer and the winnings bigger. One person in 3.2 million wins Lottario's average jackpot of \$300,000 per week. Loto 6/49 will offer a million dollar jackpot after a year.

Forty-five cents of every dollar taken in goes to prizes, on average, in all of the lotteries. Let me contrast those figures with a couple of things out of the horse racing world, for those who wish to gamble rather than intelligently handicap and speculate on horse races. It is 3.2 million to one for an average jackpot, top prize \$300,000. In the Pick 6 in Vancouver, in the Pick 6 at Woodbine, there have already been pots of \$300,000, and all you have to do is pick the six consecutive winners of six races. Now, compared with 3.2 million to one odds, it is almost lead-pipe cinch. You have only 10 or 12 horses in each one of the races. You have only to pick one from each, so you might say 12 times one times six, and sure, the odds are that you have a chance; also you have a good opportunity to use your intelligence in determining what is taking place.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cook: Now, aside from the jackpots, in this new one, Loto 6/49, players can win cash prizes of \$10 weekly for matching three numbers. Shared cash prizes, determined on a pool basis, will be given for matching four and five numbers as well. Now, let us get right down to the basic \$10. The chance of winning any prize is estimated at one in 53. You could get better odds on a long shot at a race track than that, for better odds and far more for your \$2. Lotteries really have drained off a lot of recreational dollars. It is a system and a despicable thing which gives people dreams, but if they would only look at the 3.2 million to one odds!

I had the occasion to draw a lottery once and nothing brought it home to me as much as that. It was for \$100,000. I went into this room. There was a 20-foot wall which was filled with shoe boxes. I mean that the wall was filled, column after column after column, from the floor to the ceiling. The first thing we did in picking this winner was to spin a little wheel and pick out a number. That gave us row of boxes No. 15. So we went over to the fifteenth row and we knew the winner was going to come from that fifteenth row. Then we spun the numbers again and came up with the number nine. Then we counted down nine and pulled out that one box and opened it. In that box there were 1,000 individual tickets. My function then was to take a knife and stick it into that box somewhere and they would remove a ticket. We did that and someone won \$100,000. But I think anyone who has paid money for one of those lottery tickets, if they could have seen that wall, if they could have seen the fantastic odds against them, would have