

Criminal Code

Mr. Fulton: There is one question I should like to ask with respect to subsection 6. I accept all the other explanations, but I should like assurance from the minister that he is given no new powers under subsection 6.

Mr. Pouliot: Mr. Chairman, before this section is carried I should like to say something on this bill, and my remarks will not be at all reproachful of the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Fair: Are you going to place a bet?

Mr. Pouliot: No, not with my hon. friend, because he would not take it. My remarks will be very simple, and will not be at all a reflection on the minister who is sponsoring the bill.

This is an example of badly drafted legislation. Only those who are experts in pari-mutuel matters can understand this kind of half-baked legislation. A distinction is made between associations incorporated before May 19, 1947, if:

(A) such association has conducted a race meeting with pari-mutuel betting under the supervision of an officer appointed by the Minister of Agriculture at any time after the 1st day of January, 1938, but before the 19th day of May, 1947, or

(B) The Minister of Agriculture has, before the 19th day of May, 1947, made a determination under this section that the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, section 227 and subsections 1 and 2 of section 229 shall not extend to the operation of a pari-mutuel system with respect to running races at a race meeting conducted by such association on a race course of another association.

Mr. Knowles: Everybody who places a bet should be required to understand that first. That would certainly limit betting.

Mr. Pouliot: Horse racing is a kingly sport. Most of those who own horses in Canada, the principal winners at the races, are multi-millionaires. Some of them are just pure hypocrites. They may have some interest in paper mills that work at full capacity on Sundays in Ontario, for the seven days in the week, but when it comes to horse racing they object to having horses run on Sundays.

It is different in the province of Quebec. The paper mills are closed on Sundays, but the farmers and others enjoy horse races on Sundays as a legitimate distraction. There is nothing wrong with it, and it cannot be an offence except in virtue of this law. In the province of Quebec, the young people are baptized on Sundays, and I understand that in Ontario funerals take place on Sunday. Those are the differences.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Baptisms take place on Sunday in Ontario.

Mr. Pouliot: Not to my knowledge, but I do not live all of the year in Ontario. This

is outside the range of the bill. What I want to say is that if these millionaires were less hypocritical they would not insist on such legislation as this. They are Sunday observers behind the curtains. Let us be frank about it and admit that there is nothing wrong in farmers and country people attending horse races on Sundays. I hope this will be considered.

Mr. Johnston: What about betting on Sunday?

Mr. Pouliot: Does my friend consider it an offence? He will be starting a new theology.

Mr. Johnston: I am asking you.

Mr. Pouliot: I am not opposed to it, and I cannot say whether or not it is a sin, because I am not a theologian. I do not think there is anything wrong in it.

Mr. Johnston: Betting on Sunday?

Mr. Pouliot: Yes. It may offend my hon. friend's principles; he may have his views and he is entitled to them, as is anybody else, but I do not find anything wrong with it. Some people may think differently, and that is their business. I am not saying anything unpleasant about them because they do not share my view. They are free to think what they like about it.

Mr. Johnston: Just another form of gambling, that is all.

Mr. Pouliot: I have submitted the matter to the committee. I am against ultra-puritanism in all its forms.

Mr. Fulton: Has the minister had an opportunity of considering whether subsection 6 grants any new powers?

Mr. Gardiner: It does not give any new powers, except that it will apply to trotters and racers as well.

Mr. Proudfoot: Mr. Chairman, this amendment has been asked for by the standard bred breeders of Canada because in certain instances races have been promoted by men over whom we have no control, nor have we any control over the betting. So we asked the Department of Agriculture to supervise our standard bred races similarly to the supervision that has been given to thoroughbred races. I do not see anything wrong with the bill, except in one instance, and I would refer to paragraph (d) (ii) which reads:

No more than eight races or dashes, or ten heats shall be held during any twenty-four hour period.

I do not think that is quite correct, because we generally race three heats, and three will not divide into ten. That is the only thing I can see wrong with the bill, and I would