

private charity a number of boys on the team were able to go.

The universal opinion of the sports columnists throughout this country has been wholeheartedly and completely in full endorsement of this legislation. One particular writer, whom I believe to be very sound, made this significant statement:

Sports participation is an essential part of our schooling, too. It's an escape hatch from the everyday boredom of study and helps build healthy bodies. And it never hurts character.

There have been so many disturbing factors that the University of Toronto, which I have the privilege to serve on its Board of Governors, at the direction of its president, Dr. Bissell, has formed an athletic advisory committee. We hold our first meeting within the next week. The problem of physical fitness has become such a serious problem in undergraduate students that it requires the attention of the university as a whole.

The honourable senator from Gulf (Hon. Mr. Power), whom I had the privilege of serving as his consultant in surgery in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the last war, knows full well the problem we had with regard to physical fitness. Observing these recruits over many years, and again since the end of the war, it has been my considered opinion that Canadians as a whole are much more interested in the average boy who has an average or better than average degree of intelligence and has also had some athletic background. I am particularly perturbed about the so-called super-intelligensia. As Sir William Osler vividly stated in one of his monumental writings, "Genius borders on the stage of insanity". We have never seen a young man, having average intelligence, well up in his work at school, and athletically inclined, sell his country down the river. As in every endeavour, there is a philosophy of life, a code for athletes and coaches which is more than a rule of conduct in sports, with its emphasis on playing the game for the game's sake, playing it fairly and decently, and obeying the rules. The win-at-any-cost attitude is deprecated, for the cost may be dishonourable. It is the game and the manner of the effort that count, and a lost game played honestly with the utmost vigour is preferable to one that has been won by underhand and foul means. To win is always desirable; but to win at any cost defeats the purpose of the game. Losing can be a triumph when the best has been given.

The purpose of the game is to build not only healthy bodies but also healthy minds, sportsmanship and character. That is what this proposed legislation will strive to do. The young athlete who is a sportsman, who

always plays the game and abides by the rules, will not be guilty of shady dealings when he grows older. He will not take short cuts at the cost of honesty. In business, and in his relations with his fellow men, he will be fair and open. His conduct will be marked by decency, his methods will be honourable. He may lose money, as in his youth he lost games, but he preserves his integrity and wins the respect of his neighbours.

Honourable senators, I am happy to move second reading of the bill. If the bill receives second reading, I shall then move that it be referred to the Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, I am sure we all consider ourselves fortunate to have the senator from North York (Hon. Mr. Sullivan) in our midst. He is an outstanding athlete with a distinguished record, and is now an eminent surgeon and physician. Surely, therefore, he can speak with authority on the important subject of physical fitness. We are grateful to him for his address on second reading of this bill today.

I have some views on this bill which I would like to place before the house. As the honourable senator said, this is a bill which makes provision for an annual grant of \$5 million to be administered by a National Advisory Council for the promotion of fitness and amateur sport.

This is a very worthy objective and it is not necessary for me to emphasize, especially after what the honourable Senator Sullivan has said, the importance of physical fitness. The purpose of the bill should be to raise the level of physical fitness of all the people. Unfortunately, the emphasis in the bill, in my opinion, is to encourage competitive sport in which only the best players take part. I am sure Senator Sullivan would not agree with a bill which had that purpose in view. Such a bill might develop stars and world champions, and raise our prestige with athletes throughout the world, but it would do little to improve the health of Canadians generally.

I am proud of our Canadian championship teams; we all have a feeling of pride when an individual Canadian, or a Canadian team, wins a world championship and these champions inspire other young athletes in their endeavour to excel in some particular sport. Would it not be better, however, and would we not have a greater feeling of pride if the physical fitness of Canadians could be so improved that instead of having crowded hospitals we had playgrounds crowded with players, all of whom could not be stars, nor champions, but where everyone would be given an opportunity and would be en-