

Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act

by Gallup found that 73 per cent of people earning less than \$6,000 per year took part in Wintario. This is the clientele to whom the Government's betting schemes are really appealing.

The matter of grave concern to myself and to other Members, particularly those in my own Party, is found in the Clause before us at this time. It talks about a voluntary taxation through a sports pool to fund an addition to the games, to support arts and culture, worthy capital projects of national interest and medical and health research. I always considered support for arts and culture and support for medical and health research to be a responsibility in the best interest of Canadians as a whole and certainly Canada as a society. I considered this to be a responsibility of all Canadians not just those people at the low end of the income scale who may be tempted because of the economic conditions in which they find themselves as a result of Government policy to try to find a way out of those difficulties by buying dreams through the kinds of programs about which the Government is talking. That is what the Government is doing. It is selling dreams. The chances or the odds of an individual who participates in that kind of activity, these lotteries or sports pools, actually coming out a winner are decidedly low.

When we consider what the Government has done recently in terms of its support for medical and health research, post-secondary education and other policy areas which come under the Established Programs Financing Act, we should be extremely concerned. We see the Government beginning to talk about supporting necessary Government services through voluntary taxation by legalized Government-supported gambling. That is a matter of extreme concern to me. It is not a question, as the Minister mentioned earlier, of Governments, politicians or elected officials telling people on what they can or cannot gamble. That is not the question. The question is whether the Government is actively promoting the raising of taxation for very necessary services through gambling under the programs it is introducing. That is the point which must be addressed in this debate. Throughout his remarks I did not hear the Minister address that issue.

The Minister dragged into the debate a whole number of red herrings, but I did not once hear him give an argument which would justify me or Members of my caucus giving any semblance of support or speaking in favour of this kind of activity or this kind of Government initiative.

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, it is obvious the Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young) had the same speech writer as the previous speaker from his Party. I want to make a few brief remarks on Motion No. 3. The Hon. Member for St. Catharines (Mr. Reid) said it was brought in because of the Clause of the Bill it was amending, as they referred to it, the Mack truck clause. If it is a Mack truck Clause; certainly it is a "get the Tories off the hook" amendment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I believe the House is currently debating Motion No. 2. Is the Hon. Member directing his remarks to that motion?

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): I will take over then.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Just a moment. Does the Hon. Member want to direct his remarks to motion No. 2?

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry, I just used the wrong number. Rather than Motion No. 2 I said, "motion No. 3".

We have witnessed a fair amount of Tory sleight of hand in the speeches we have heard on this particular Clause. I support this Bill with somewhat mixed emotions. The garbage we have heard from the other side of the House helped me decide to support it. Hon. Members of the New Democratic Party want all these activities supported from general Government revenue. It seems that they do not take cognizance of the fact that Canada economically, socially and developmentally is still very much a developing country, and that there is not the necessary revenue for the Government of Canada to support everything.

• (1730)

We had the opportunity to support cultural, recreational and research activities through non-governmental revenue until the Hon. Member for Edmonton North (Mr. Paproski) gave it away. We no longer have it. They have made much of the fact that the Calgary games—

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to straighten out the Hon. Member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne). It is wrong for a Member to say things like that. I have a lot of admiration for that Member, however he should realize that this Minister never sat down and talked with his provincial counterparts in order to see if any of these moneys—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. With all due respect to the Hon. Member for Edmonton North, the rules permit only ten minutes per speaker. The Chair has recognized the Hon. Member for Northumberland-Miramichi. I am sure there will be another opportunity to intervene.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, that was a very fine ruling. The Hon. Member was not rising on a point of order, but to debate a different issue altogether.

The Hon. Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes) will have to answer to the people of Calgary for the position he took when he rushed in, made a few remarks and rushed out. He will have to answer for his opposition to this Bill.

I support the Bill because of the commitment made by the Government of Canada to the XV Olympiad. Whether it is in Calgary, Vancouver or wherever, I as a Canadian am proud that we will have the Olympiad in Canada. I believe that we should have top-notch facilities. I do not agree with the NDP that some of the poorest communities in this country should be taxed for general revenues to pay for sports facilities they will probably never see. This is a fair and equitable way of providing non-tax revenue to the Government to fulfil its commitment to the City of Calgary in the provision of these facilities.