

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, in resuming the few remarks that I began to make yesterday evening, perhaps I could first remind Hon. Members of what the Secretary of State (Mr. Joyal) actually said at the conclusion of his remarks when introducing this Bill. He stated: "We already have many lotteries in the country and this is a very harmless one of entertainment for a worth while cause".

I wish to expand on those three items in considering Motion No. 3 that is before us and which, of course, relates to the possibility of specifically indicating that some funds will be devoted toward aiding the Olympic Games in the City of Calgary.

As the Minister indicated in his introductory remarks, there are many gambling or lottery-type functions in the country at the present time. I would only suggest that instead of the federal Government recklessly going ahead with the type of legislation that is now before us, it is time it reviewed what the functions of some of the lotteries really are.

Since the Minister has indicated that it is a harmless type of entertainment for a worth-while cause, let us see who actually buys these various forms of lottery tickets in the country today. Statistics show that two-thirds of those who participate in lotteries come from a group that would generally be regarded as the lower income group in our society. I categorically state that more than two-thirds of the total public buying lottery tickets come from families who have a household income of from zero to \$30,000.

The Minister stated in his introductory remarks that the amount which these people pay out is comparatively small. He did state that one-third of 1 per cent of their total income is going into lotteries at the present time. It does not take long to determine that one-third of 1 per cent from a household income of \$30,000 means \$100 a year or \$2 a week that a family is spending for virtually a worthless activity, the buying of lottery or other type of draw tickets. If we consider a household income of \$20,000, they are then spending \$66 per year on average.

One might ask about the worth-while cause. It should be made categorically clear that if it is a question of the federal Government providing a one-third contribution to help Calgary hold the Olympics, I do not believe there are many Members of the House who would oppose that aid. However, what Hon. Members and certainly my caucus is trying to indicate is that this approach is not the proper one to take. If the federal Government wishes to contribute roughly \$125 million as one-third of the ongoing capital expenditure for the Calgary Olympics, then let us clearly identify that amount.

In regard to this type of sports pool, we must not lose sight of the fact that it requires an average of \$100 million of primarily poor people's money at roughly \$50 to \$100 a year in order to produce a grant of \$30 million. It does not take long to discover the ramifications of this legislation. The Minister has admitted that there are many lotteries, which means that there is a lot of competition. He does not admit, however, that rather than make money, this sports pool will probably lose

Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act

colossal amounts of money when it comes on stream in an attempt to persuade the public to shift from whatever they are presently buying to buying this.

Mr. Paproski: \$55 million.

Mr. Stevens: My colleague for Edmonton North (Mr. Paproski) indicates that the cost may be \$55 million just to enter this field.

My main point is that assuming this sports pool is conducted correctly, which would truly be unique for the Government, it will have to sell almost \$500 million worth of sports pool tickets before it can produce the one-third amount that it wants to give to the Calgary Olympics. What an unbelievably costly and unfair way to raise money. Since my time is limited, I wish to emphasize the fact that the Government is, in truth, following the path that has been repeatedly followed in history, that is, toward more and more irresponsibility.

For example, a book entitled "The Itch for Play" was published in 1962. It reviews the history of gambling in the world. It points out that in 1695 gambling in England became a tremendous craze. People from all over that country were attempting to get into some form of gambling. As we know, this eventually led to the South Sea Bubble where the Government set up, under the South Sea Act, a company that was designed to take over the entire national debt. In short, an utter disaster occurred in England during that period as a result of the Government aiding and abetting the gambling fever that was taking over the country. As we know, it eventually got so out of control that the Government had to pass criminal legislation preventing gambling in the future.

It was not until this Government, under the present emperor, that this trend was reversed and we began to legitimize gambling once again and encourage the frenzy that we are now perhaps witnessing in the country. What I am saying is that gambling is something that I do not feel is a desirable thing to be encouraging in our nation. In short, this federal Government should not be getting into the field.

• (1520)

If I may, I might conclude by putting on the record what the author of this book that I have in my hand defined as gambling:

Gambling is an enchanting witchery. It is a disease of humankind requiring medical attention. It is an incorrigible evil in man. In short, it must be controlled.

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue the general thrust and tone of comments offered by my hon. colleague, the Hon. Member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens). I shall explain why it is that Members of this Party will not be supporting Bill C-95 in any form whatever pending a major change in the basic thrust of this legislation. This, of course, would invalidate the proposal.

At the same time we are today speaking to Motion No. 3, an amendment proposed by my colleague, the Hon. Member for St. Catharines (Mr. Reid), which would ensure that, should the sports pool go ahead, the funds will be clearly and solely