

Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act

the chance to win \$1 million or \$100,000, or whatever it is. That has a special appeal for those who can least afford it. Several examples have been given today of instances where it has meant hardship and loss to families caught up on this kind of desire to gain instant wealth and prosperity. It has been pointed out, of course, that those who profit, do so at the expense of others.

I spent most of today travelling across Canada. Thursday night, while travelling home to beautiful British Columbia, I saw a most spectacular sight over the prairie Provinces, a sight which I have never seen before. We were flying just a few hundred feet above a cloud blanket which spread from horizon to horizon when an electrical storm developed. The clouds below were spectacularly lit up by discharges of electricity all across the sky. This went on for most of an hour. Those of us who had our eyes glued to the windows of the plane watching this spectacularly beautiful sight, little knew that below us that storm would bring tragedy and destruction to cities and people. It was only the next day that we read about some of those tragedies, about the lad in Edmonton who was swept away while in the street in front of his home and whose body has not yet been found; about the young woman who drowned in her car which was stalled in the middle of a street in Saskatoon. Therefore, what was so delightful and spectacularly beautiful to some of us who were above the storm evoked just the opposite reaction from those involved on the ground.

● (2200)

I suppose that is a simple demonstration of the principle that has been expounded over on this side of the House, that lotteries are beautiful to some and damaging to others. As such, I think they are incompatible with the spirit of Canada and should not be used by the Government of Canada as a form of taxation for any purpose, no matter how honourable or delightful the purpose.

We live in a unique country. We in Canada have a diversity that is part of our strength and our heritage and leads us to cherish our country beyond any other. There is a diversity in Canada in attitudes, the same as there is in typography. It is important that actions by the national Government of Canada do not abuse or offend large segments of society. This should be avoided if possible. I believe that a lottery for whatever purpose, under legislation provided by the Government of Canada, offends a great many Canadians.

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I did speak on the measure once this evening, but we are now considering a further amendment and I have a few observations in connection with it. First, the Government's claim has been that the Bill must be passed in order to facilitate the holding of the Calgary games. The inference is that without the support of the Bill, the games are in jeopardy. However, I would submit that everyone knows that that is not true. The same serious argument was used by the Government in forcing the Crow Bill through the House. In its argumentation it stated that if the transportation system was to be upgraded, the statutory Crow rate had to go because, through the change that it was proposing, the money would be forthcoming to

assist the railway companies in upgrading and providing a better transportation system for Canada. I think everyone knows that that was not true. Everyone was in favour of the upgrading of our transportation system.

We think back to the days when a certain Minister of Transport said that the transportation system was a mess. The same could be said today because we remember the attempts of the railway companies to discourage passenger travel by making it almost impossible to make connections at various out of the way points and by using other techniques as well. We are still facing a situation in which the transportation system is inadequate to fulfill the purpose for which it was originally set in place. However, I would suggest that there are other options open to the transportation system than the method and the route that the Government was following in trying to destroy the statutory freight rates.

We are faced with the same situation again involving a very laudable project namely, the Calgary Olympics. I do not suppose anyone objects to the holding of the Calgary Olympics. I would say that it is a possibility that the greatest percentage of the people of Canada think it is a good idea, even though they may not be sports-minded. They say it is a good idea to encourage our athletes to participate in competition with those from other countries, and they would like to see it go ahead. However, now I say that the Government in implying that unless this particular measure goes through and the sports pool is set up, those games are in jeopardy. However, we all know, in and around this place, that if the Government wants to do something, it gets some money somewhere. If it wants to prop up an ailing industry, and many times some of its own followers can help it out in a tough spot, it can get the money all right. It can go and borrow and does not mind doing it at all. Yet if we are to have the Olympics, it says that we cannot do it that way. It says that we must put in a sports pool and get the money out of those people who are poor and hard up yet desperate to make a dollar in order to better their economic condition and so they will take a chance on buying tickets.

The Government is hypocritical in its attitude, in its proclamations, in its announcements, because it knows very well that there are other avenues that it can tap in order to ensure the holding of the Calgary Olympics. It can do so without forcing the Bill through the House as it is endeavouring to do at the present time.

There has been a question raised as to whether it is a lottery or a sports pool, or just what it is. However, we all know that it is just a gambling device. I would like to draw attention to the following statement. It was the concluding words of the joint Parliamentary Committee on Capital Punishment and Lotteries in the report which was made on July 31, 1956. It concluded with a very interesting statement:

● (2210)

That no useful purpose could be achieved by the institution of state lottery in Canada. It considered that the proper role of the state is to control and regulate such gambling activity as is permitted to private citizens by the general law, and