

National Recreation Policy

was carried away by the fact that he was on the radio at 7.30 in the morning. The fact that I was up at that hour may be significant, too.

• (1640)

Mr. Yewchuk: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Cullen: With all respect, the hon. member is not in his own seat. As the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre said, the motion presented by the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger) is an important one. But, like all of us who present motions and bills during private members' hour, he has failed to pinpoint precisely what he wants, to indicate what it would cost the taxpayers and how the money would be distributed if a national recreation policy were implemented.

To defend such a motion it would be necessary to know precisely what the hon. member has in mind and what kind of money he is recommending should be spent. If we went back to our constituents and said, "Yes, I was for that motion. I supported it in private members' hour and I will support it in committee; but I don't really know what it is going to cost," that would be an irresponsible attitude on our part. When presenting such motions hon. members should give some idea of the avenues they are travelling.

Mr. Yewchuk: What is the wiretapping bill going to cost? You are supporting it.

Mr. Cullen: Yes, I am supporting it. The hon. member may be now in his seat, although that is difficult to know. I say the privacy of the individual should be protected, but there should be emergency provisions. Apparently, this member of the Conservative Party does not seem to think the motion presently before us is an important one when he attempts to sidetrack me like this. I say it is important and should be considered.

Had the hon. member for Wetaskiwin built his motion around one particular point, university athletic scholarships, then we would have a better idea of what he intended. I remember some of my high school colleagues who may have been somewhat mediocre students, just able to get through Latin and English grammar, yet who were whizzes on the football field, the basketball court or in swimming matches. They had no other encouragement than that of trying to make the school team. But when they finished high school they really had no chance to make their living in football because there were no scholarships for that; thus they were denied expert training. Any who wanted to continue in athletics had to go south of the border. I commend Simon Fraser University if it is providing athletic scholarships.

This is an area where the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) should get together with provincial ministers of education and look into the possibility of funding such college scholarships. They would know how many colleges there are in the country and could decide on the criteria for athletes to attend them and receive scholarships.

The hon. member for Wetaskiwin also spoke about importing coaches. I do not know why we seem to be loath to do that. The Canadian Legion showed the way some years ago when it brought an internationally respected

[Mr. Cullen.]

coach to Canada from Great Britain to coach Canadian teams and assist Canadian athletes to develop. It was just one more indication of the kind of service provided by the Legion that all too often is forgotten. People sometimes think of legionnaires getting together to talk about the war, and do not realize that the Legion is giving leadership on a national basis to develop athletes and improve our showing in international competition. I salute the Legion for that. And the Legion does not simply focus on the national scene. I notice in many leagues the names of teams such as "The Legion" or "The Legionnaires," and we all know where the money to support them originates.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre struck a nerve when he indicated that he did not want to see us programmed to death. This is not unlike going to a summer resort, where you swim when you want to, rest when you want to and read when you want to; but the resort has an athletics director who insists that you go for a swim before breakfast, that you have a run after breakfast, who tells you what you should eat for your meal and in effect tells you how you should be enjoying yourself on a holiday that you yourself selected long before you met him.

I do not want to speak at length because I know there are others who wish to speak on this important motion. But once again I say to the hon. member who sponsored it that I would have been much happier if he had confined himself to a particular area and indicated whether he thought funding should be made available for athletic scholarships and the importation of coaches, or for the establishment of recreational centres in large or small communities, or whether he feels more money should be made available to Sports Canada. There are many such areas in which the federal government is participating at the present time. As a result of the study which he must have made before presenting this motion, the hon. member should have said in which areas he felt the federal government was not going far enough or where he felt some program could be dropped.

Sarnia produces some pretty fair baseball players, Mr. Speaker. This may be because it is close to an international border and local teams compete against Americans who are probably the best baseball players in the world, ahead of the Japanese and the Canadians. As a result, Sarnia produced a team that won two national championships. In this area, the federal government did not make money directly available to the Sarnia team or the Kitchener team, but it did say to the national organization, "We will make 'X' number of dollars available to you and you will spend that money as you see fit, either to send the team from Sarnia to where the championships are held or in some other manner. You will decide whether the money is to be divided among senior and junior competitors." This is the only fair way in which the federal government can become involved in that kind of program.

Mr. Speaker, I see there are members on the edge of their seat anxious to participate in this debate; therefore I will conclude my remarks at this point.

Mr. Judd Buchanan (London West): Mr. Speaker, I am glad my colleague noted the anxiety with which I was sitting on the edge of my seat. To discuss a national recreation policy such as the one proposed by the hon.