

pic Games. However, we as Canadians recognize that we must have money to enable us to ensure that our participation is a responsible and successful one and that our athletes receive the necessary training and resources they require in order to perform well on the international stage of athletics. We need programs and strategies, Mr. Speaker, in order to ensure that those moneys will be generated. Canadians want and deserve to know what will be replacing that which is being removed. How will it be replaced and when? These are the fundamental questions to which Canadians want immediate answers.

When we debate and discuss the Olympic Games and amateur sports in general, we are also talking, to a large degree, about Canada's youth and their great appetite for adventure and achievement. Our future may lie beyond their vision but I would submit that it is not beyond our control. It is the will of our Government and of all Canadians which will determine, in part, their destiny. It is my every hope, Mr. Speaker, a hope which I believe is shared by all the citizens of our country, that as the years pass the efforts of our Government in encouraging athletic excellence in amateur sports and the Olympic Games will be judged as positive and constructive. I endorse the motion of the Hon. Member.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Nipigon (Mr. Epp). It is the other Mr. Epp; I thought it was the Minister getting up again!

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, thank you for solving the interesting question of how to deal with certain similarities of name, if little else, although in speaking this morning to the Bill to dissolve the sports pool, we will have occasion to see a similarity of view.

I am very pleased to be able to speak this early in the Thirty-third Parliament on an important measure. I believe I will have an opportunity during the debate on the Throne Speech to speak as well and consequently my comments to my constituents and relating to the past election can be held over. Today I would particularly like to address the matter before us.

Before I do so, I would like to congratulate my friend of similar name on his responsibility as Minister of National Health and Welfare. I hope he will have a good time. I wish him well in the great responsibility he faces in maintaining the social security system of our country.

I was also pleased to see the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) on his feet speaking to this measure. We have been waiting with bated breath for our friends in the Liberal caucus to name their spokesman for fitness and amateur sport, given that the list announced earlier did not include any such person. Since the Hon. Member is also responsible for multiculturalism, as I am, we clearly will become acquainted.

The Bill before us deals with a measure passed in the last Parliament which was designed to create a sports pool in order to raise money, not just for the Olympics in 1988 but for various other objectives. It was designed to raise money for fitness and amateur sport generally, for the support of arts and culture, including, although not necessarily restricted to, capi-

tal projects in that area. It was also, as has been recognized earlier today, designed to raise money for the purposes of supporting medical and health research.

All of these things are, of course, very important matters to the people of Canada. They are matters which deserve substantial support. However, the preceding government intended to support these important activities not from the general revenues of the country but by the method of gambling on the federal as well as the provincial level. It was clearly a matter of supporting excellent ends by the use of highly dubious means.

There have not been many comments in the debate to this point on the questionable nature of those means so I would like to give my own observations. In fact there is a large area of agreement between myself and my colleagues in the last Parliament, going back to the 1970s, the views of the present Minister of National Health and Welfare and, for that matter, those of the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Jelinek), who I regret not seeing here today.

● (1240)

I would like to put on record the views stated by various members of our Party in years past in order to have an indication of the importance of these matters. The House will pardon the historian particularly enjoying documents while he is in the process of adding to the documentation. In 1976 the then Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre, Mr. Knowles, spoke as follows in the debate on Loto Canada:

It is because we believe that physical fitness, amateur sport and recreation are important aspects of Canadian life that we think they should be financed out of general taxation and, therefore, paid for on the basis of the ability to pay.

We do not believe that aspects of life as important as physical fitness, amateur sport and recreation should be financed by gambling, which calls on the poor to pay for it, instead of taxation which is levied according to ability to pay.

Although I will not say much about the importance of fitness and amateur sport to all of us, let me say that those sentiments clearly state my position and that of my colleagues. In debate on the legislation which established what we are today concluding, the sports pool itself, the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) spoke as follows on November 18, 1982:

It is clear that if we believe the health and well-being of the people is important, then we must be prepared to make a financial commitment to that end.

**He added:**

The intent of the legislation is quite clear; it will introduce an attitude in the country that gambling is an acceptable way for government to raise money. It is not acceptable, Mr. Speaker.

**Later he said:**

But when we in Canada make a commitment to health care, health services and provision of adequate facilities for health, whether it be in the sense of providing immediate care or research, we believe in doing it out of tax revenues. Also we believe that it should be funded in a way to allow the people charged with the responsibility of ensuring the continuation of the health care service to do some reasonable fiscal planning, to budget and to commit dollars for years down the road in order to complete the projects which they have undertaken.

Those are fascinating comments given what the Hon. Minister has indicated about some questions he put to the head of