

Athletic Contests and Events Pools Act

The Government continues to say that the Opposition holds up or delays these games. It has not even considered the possibility that both the Canadian Olympic Association and the Calgary Organizational Committee wanted to stage a lottery game of their own. What happened to that proposition? We are still in the position of saying that we need a sports pool to fund the Calgary Olympics. But both the Government side and this side, as well as Calgary, know that we will never fund the Calgary Olympics based on the sports pool.

● (2050)

At third reading of this Bill we will have a chance to expand upon the various reasons why the Bill should not pass through the House. All that aside, let us concern ourselves with the motion before us now.

In 1976 the federal Government proposed to enter the lottery field to meet its commitment to the Montreal Olympics and then to vacate that field. Members will recall the commitment made to vacate that field once the Montreal Olympics were completed. On that basis, this Party supported that position and voted accordingly. Therefore, we propose through this motion that the same approach be taken with respect to Calgary. We can do no less. If the Government is not prepared to honour its commitment out of tax revenues, then it must be prepared to negotiate adequate funding from one source or another. If the sports pool is the only means that can be used to fund those Calgary Olympics, let the Government make it clear and unequivocal that the proceeds from the sports pool, or whatever other lawful game it proposes under that Clause, should go to the Calgary Olympics. If it will be sold to the public as a sports pool, then let the Calgary Olympics get the benefit of that marketing process. Such is the purpose of our amendment. Calgary should be designated as the sole recipient of the sports pool proceeds. Once the games are completed the participation of Canada in the gaming business should be discontinued. Upon the completion of the Calgary Olympics, Canadians would then have the option of continuing to show interest in gaming businesses of this nature.

More particularly, Canadians would have the opportunity to participate in the funding of the Canadian Calgary Olympics. By doing so, they would participate, as they chose, in whatever amounts they chose, in the funding of those Calgary Olympics. Once more, Calgary would then be receiving exactly the same treatment that this House accorded the Montreal Olympics. In effect, if the lottery game proposed by this legislation is primarily for Calgary, since the Government said that Calgary is being hurt by the delay of this legislation, let us name Calgary and the XV Winter Olympics as the beneficiary of this legislation.

The Minister spoke in committee of the necessity of providing the people with a voluntary means of financing such events. If we are to have the benefit of a sports pool, if the game is to be promoted as a means of assisting the Olympics, then here is a clear and unequivocal way of showing how those moneys will be spent and who will receive the benefits of the

dollars spent by millions of Canadians in the purchase of lottery tickets, or participation in the unknown games which this House proposes to inflict upon Canadians. In conclusion, I support and urge the acceptance of Motion No. 3 by the House.

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North): Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to hear my colleague, the Hon. Member for St. Catharines (Mr. Reid), as well as my other colleagues speak today in opposition to this particular sports pool.

This weekend, thousands of the world's best athletes from five continents will be in Edmonton to participate in one of the world's greatest amateur sports and one of the greatest spectator events, the University Games. They will be held in the constituency of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Edmonton South (Mr. Roche). It is a great occasion which will open on Friday, July 1, while celebrating Canada's one hundred and sixteenth birthday. At that time, Princess Diana and His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, will be at the games. Of course, this will be the twenty-second birthday of the Princess.

The reason I bring this to the attention of the House is that funding was provided under a principal agreement which was signed by the provincial Governments. It represented a great exercise in federal-provincial co-operation. In fact, it was one of the only agreements which I believe was signed in our short-lived Government.

Mr. Fox: It was the great give-away.

Mr. Paproski: It was not the great give-away as the Minister of Communications (Mr. Fox) realizes. He has that \$98 million, half of which goes to him for culture.

Mr. Fox: How much?

Mr. Paproski: It is \$98.7 million.

Mr. Fox: To give away for \$35 million.

Mr. Paproski: Let us say close to \$100 million, that the Government is getting from the Provinces in order to give it \$50 million for culture and \$50 million for fitness and amateur sports.

Mr. Fox: Twenty-four million dollars.

Mr. Paproski: That is accumulated. If the Minister would like to comment let him get up and talk. I hope these minutes will not be taken from my time, after all of this disturbance here.

I mentioned the University games because they are part and parcel of the agreement. You have no idea of what the president, Ed Zemrau and Alex Fallow, chairman of the Board, and other colleagues in Edmonton had to go through in order to receive financing from the federal Government. The money was there for the purpose of the University games and the Calgary Olympics. They were the subject of the objectives and principles in the agreement which was made with the provinces. Yet they had to get down on their knees in order to get something from the Senator in the other place. I cannot