

bets, not only in Canada but in the United States as well. I was happy to see that positive consideration was given to their request to exclude horse racing as a sports pool category for the placing of bets.

I believe representations were also made by the Inter-Church Committee on Lotteries; the Council of Executive Directors of the National Sport and Recreation Centre; the Province of Ontario; the Canadian Conference of the Arts and others. All in all some eight amendments were passed in committee in an effort to accommodate representations and to improve and make Bill C-95 a better Bill.

It has been estimated by the Secretary of State that the net annual return from this pool would be about \$80 million. This figure has been contested by others who estimate that the gross annual return would not exceed \$30 million and the net return to the federal Government would be in the neighbourhood of \$15 million. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, it is pretty difficult to estimate any figure with any degree of accuracy. Hopefully for those who stand to benefit from this pool it will be around the \$80 million mark.

Although the committee in its deliberations was not prepared to move an amendment committing the funds to a fixed distribution formula, it has been suggested that the funds be allocated on the basis of 40 per cent for major amateur sport or cultural projects and 20 per cent each for fitness and amateur sports, arts and culture and medical and health research. However, because of the commitment of up to \$200 million for the Calgary Olympics, it is evident that far more than 40 per cent of the net proceeds would have to be paid to Calgary over the short term. Therefore it is quite evident that the percentages may not be strictly adhered to.

I do not doubt, Mr. Speaker, that there could be a lot of unforeseen difficulties that may arise once the Canadian Sports Pool Corporation is in operation. I hope any difficulties that may arise will be dealt with in an efficient and business-like manner so that the worthy organizations the sports pool will be supporting will receive the necessary assistance and financial backing that they so well deserve.

However, having said all this, there is no question, as the Member for St. Catharines (Mr. Reid) has already stated, that this legislation poses some serious questions. Bill C-95 not only seeks to establish a new Crown Corporation to conduct and manage a sports pool, but to establish as well any other lawful gaming activities as the Government may direct. It could operate a bingo, a video slot machine game or whatever. Therefore it should have the courage to come to Parliament for that authorization because this particular clause in the Bill is nothing but a blank cheque. It is mind boggling to realize that Bill C-95 will allow the Government to try its hand at any game going. The Government says it may not do this but who can say what may take place in the future?

This legislation as well does not stipulate the designation of the Auditor General as the Corporation's auditor, especially in view of the ill-fated problem experienced with Loto Canada a few years ago. Loto Canada was one of a number of Crown Corporations singled out by the Auditor General as operating

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far too independently of Parliament. To add insult to injury, the Government's insistence that it choose the auditor for the Sport Pool Corporation can only leave us with the thought that the Government has no intention of letting Parliament scrutinize the Corporation's books or dealings. To me this is certainly a positive indication that the Government must have something to hide, must have something it does not want scrutinized, such as a possible way to cover up any sign of favouritism, political or otherwise, as to who gets the grants. If the Government denies this, then it should have no objection to having the Auditor General do the auditing. Since the Government does object to the Auditor General, then one can only draw the obvious conclusion. This only confirms, Mr. Speaker, what many Canadians are already aware of, that this Government has lost the trust and confidence of all the people of Canada.

• (1720)

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to Bill C-95.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne) is seeking the floor on a point of order.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I realize it is difficult for the Chair to see this part of the Chamber from this particular angle, but I have been standing up ever since the debate on this amendment began and I have not yet been recognized.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Chair does its best to recognize everyone concerned. At the moment the Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young) has the floor.

**Mr. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak in opposition to Bill C-95 for many of the reasons which have been mentioned by previous speakers in this debate. My opposition has absolutely nothing to do with a perceived or conceived lack of support for Canada's position on the winter Olympics. My opposition stems from my belief that the Government's further intrusion into the gambling industry, whether or not it likes to recognize it as such, is in fact just that and gives its stamp of approval to gambling.

Based upon figures I have seen in the past, contrary to what the Minister said in his remarks a few moments ago, there is clear indication that the individuals who are more likely to take part in lotteries or sports pools are those at the low end of the income scale. In fact, the Minister's argument that this is not a form of gambling as much as it may be a form of voluntary taxation is of great concern to me.

In my view the Government's entrance into this field over the last several years is nothing more than an additional tax on the poor. The available statistics which have been gathered by the Government and by Government agencies certainly give a clear indication of that. A 1977 profile commissioned by Loto Canada found that 54 per cent of the buyers of lottery tickets earned less than \$20,000 per year. A similar study conducted