

Tabling of Sports Document

However, in respect of the smuggling-in of the minister's statement at this time of day, I suggest that perhaps the minister should have taken a hard look at the statement because it is rather ambiguous. The statement became available to members of the opposition only very recently, but in the brief review I have had of it, it would seem that the minister has gone astray on several issues. There is no question that if the statement had been presented in the normal way, the minister would have to be a good deal more physically fit than he is, because it is a rather lengthy document. It would have to be tabled, in any event.

On the subject of physical fitness, I repeat that the minister's document is very ambiguous. I suggest he should review it. To give an example, he might look at page 3 and then go on to page 13, where he will see that he crosses himself up. However, in order to keep in form with the minister's brief statement, I shall also be brief.

● (5:30 p.m.)

I think it is rather shameful that he did not put his foot down and get this done the way he wanted, rather than allowing it to kick around for months. I hope that the intention of Members of Parliament will be fulfilled with the support of the minister, who needs to be fit probably more than most of us, in respect of providing something for the members of this august chamber who need much in the way of physical fitness facilities. As the minister indicated, physical fitness does not enable everybody to perform his duties a lot better. However, there is no question that the more physically fit you are, the better you are able to think, and I think it is time this government started a physical fitness program for themselves in order to help them in their thinking.

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to be able to reply to the statement on motions of that great athletic supporter, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro). It is ironic, I think, that this government's much-touted and long-awaited sports policy for Canadians was tabled exactly on the day we learned of the collapse of Canada's amateur hockey team, the Nats. The Nats were shafted because the team had no place to play once the International Ice Hockey Federation ruled out the use of nine professionals on the Canadian team.

So in one sport at least the control of the commercial interests is now locked up. The

minister's proposals cover a 50-page document chock-full of high-sounding phrases and good intentions. I was particularly interested in words like "participation", "involvement" and "status" which abound throughout. Sociological jargon such as "other directed" and "non goal oriented" appears there too, but I take it that "non goal oriented" is a phrase not specifically meant to apply to the Toronto Maple Leafs, although judging by their recent performance it fits. In any event, I hope that the minister, by dropping names of profound social thinkers like David Reisman and Paul Goodman, is not attempting to intimidate those of us who are not as well educated.

The report calls for such things as equal opportunity to play, the fun aspect of sports and industrial recreation, with which few could quarrel. It criticizes our North American work ethic as it has extended itself into sports, and at least in the lengthy preamble of the sports policy, enjoyment is stressed and competition played down. We in this party support the point of view that for too long the sole justification for mass sports activity on the part of Canadian children was to provide a screening device by which the athletic elite—the pros and the champs—could be identified and hotheaded. "To win at all costs" is a phrase exchanged for the theme of "play and play the game", and rightly so. We feel that by broadening the base of sports activity, a higher pinnacle of international competition could be rationally achieved.

That Canada has a sorry record in both sports participation at home and international competition abroad is self-evident. For far too long, since 1961, the National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport has professed to encourage mass participation but approves grants much more liberally for large national and international sports meets. Authorized spending by this body of \$1 million rising to \$5 million has never been closely approached, and it will be seen that what was spent went largely to the elite and not the masses. This emphasis may well continue, for after you wade through all the verbiage of the minister's report it will be found such proposals as Ottawa office space for government bodies, travel expenses for executives and paid executive directorships for priority sports may continue to encourage a sports bureaucracy with little to support it.

While agreeing that financing is far from the whole story behind our low-grade sports performance, there is no doubt there has been in sports, as in other economic areas, a star-