

Greyhound Races

who might be tempted to say that this would be direct competition against existing race tracks, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that those two sports attract a very different clientele. I might mention one track at Wonderland Park, Revere, where horse racing revenues were considerably higher in 1979 than in 1978, although the two tracks are only 4,000 feet apart. In addition, Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer to statistics concerning pari-mutuel betting in Canadian race track operations in 1980. The gross amount of bets increased by more than 11.73 per cent over 1979. The total amount was \$1.583 billion in 1980 against \$1.724 billion in 1982, the latest year for which figures are available. Attendance has gone up by more than 4.73 per cent. The gross amount of prizes won increased by more than 12.36 per cent, provincial taxes by more than 15.03 per cent. There were 3.16 per cent more racing days and the average bet in each race also went up by 7.67 per cent in 1980, all that over 1979. Besides, Montreal's Blue Bonnets race track has opted for five racing days a week, with the result that the number of bets will go up, not down, which is exactly what is expected.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude my remarks by relating a significant fact concerning greyhound training with live animals. I am referring to the 1976 State Racing Rules of Greyhound Racing, page 16, paragraph E: "Live animals for training strictly prohibited and subject to permit cancellation". Here is an article written by Mr. Laurendeau in *La Presse*:

Greyhound training has been updated in the past ten years and they now use an artificial lure—Jack-a-Lure—which has gained widespread acceptance. The greyhound's reaction is natural: as a born runner, it will go after any moving object. The State of Massachusetts has been supervising greyhound racing since the beginning in 1935 and the use of live lures is strictly prohibited. Penalties are provided, including suspension of the operator's permit. The United States National Greyhound Association management, made responsible for greyhound registration by the central Government, say that they have never heard of live lures being used to train greyhounds in the industry within the northern states. Only very isolated cases have been reported, mostly in Texas. As a matter of fact, according to the National Greyhound Association, the trend has been reversed over the past ten years (especially in the last four or five years) in favour of artificial lures. The situation is similar among Canadian breeders (mainly in Ontario and Quebec). The Greyhound Owner and Breeder Association claims that its 300-odd members use only artificial lures for training purposes. The Quebec Society for the Protection of Animals is to be commended for campaigning against animal cruelty. However, you somewhat hastily conclude that such treatment would be meted out by those who want to start greyhound races in Quebec.

For all those reasons, Mr. Speaker, I hope to have the unanimous consent of the House to amend Section 188 of the Criminal Code and make it possible to hold greyhound races in Canada.

• (1710)

[*English*]

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Mr. Speaker, I am glad some of us were awake in the House today when this Bill was brought forward. A few months ago we were caught napping in here and the Bill of the Member for Chambly (Mr.

Dupont) was referred to committee without anyone making any speeches on it.

When I first heard about this Bill relating to greyhound racing, Mr. Speaker, I viewed it with a bit of alarm. I just could not imagine greyhounds racing down the highway. I thought this would pose a threat to the other traffic. Then I thought perhaps they would put in an oval track. However, it would be a little difficult if a couple of them went into the corner at the same time. Then I thought perhaps they would do this greyhound racing on a drag strip. It occurred to me that a vehicle as large as a greyhound would have great difficulty attaining any kind of speed in only one quarter of a mile. Then someone told me this greyhound racing referred to dogs and not to busses.

Being a prairie boy I am not terribly familiar with this type of dog. Out there we do not go in for strange looking long, tall, skinny dogs. We like real dogs such as huskies, shepherds or labradors. We do have dog racing out on the Prairies but we attach a whole bunch of them, usually huskies, to a sleigh and then someone chases them across 20 miles of snow-covered forest track in weather that is usually 20, 30 or 40 degrees below Celsius. I never found any attraction in watching an anorexic-looking dog chase a mechanical rabbit around a track for about 30 seconds.

I have been to Florida on one occasion a number of years ago but I was much more interested in spending time on the beach soaking up sun than going to dog racing. On another occasion a number of years ago, on a visit to Melbourne, Australia I saw people walking the streets with funny looking dogs with muzzles on. I was told they were racing dogs, but again it was something which did not offer any great attraction to me.

I must admit I find it difficult to be terribly serious about this bill. I know the Hon. Member has put a lot of thought into it. I listened to his comments. However, I really could not support a Bill of this nature. I think it is obvious from my comments so far that I find it difficult to get terribly serious about the introduction of dog racing into the country. I oppose it simply because we have enough gambling in the country. Within the last year or so we passed a Bill in the House, which was objected to by both Opposition Parties, which instituted a new form of gambling, which we are hearing about in the news in the last few days. That is just beginning to be set up. I am referring to the sports pool through which people will bet on hockey games on weekends.

To begin with, there is enough gambling in the country. People go to the racetrack and buy all of these silly lotteries. Some people are fortunate enough to win, but an awful lot more spend far too much on it. About a month or two ago when Lotto 6/49 was at its peak and everyone was going crazy over it, I was driving down the highway listening to CBC radio from Montreal. They were interviewing people who were lined up to buy these tickets. I heard a woman say she had already spend \$240 that week on Lotto 6/49 tickets. One should not judge by the sound of a voice on the radio, but I had the uneasy feeling that this woman could not afford to spend \$240