

Criminal Code

Columbia. There are 10,000 racehorse owners in Canada, including 900 in British Columbia. There are over 8,000 people employed in the racing industry in British Columbia, of which some are part-time employees. Over 40,000 people in Canada are employed in racing.

In British Columbia alone the thoroughbred breeders have over \$100 million invested in land, buildings, equipment and livestock. The total thoroughbred investment exceeds \$300 million in British Columbia. Total purchases in British Columbia in 1981 for standardbreds, and thoroughbreds was \$11.1 million. The 1981 national total was \$107.8 million. Most of this money goes to the agricultural industry in the form of wages and purchases of supplies.

What about wagers? How much money is really involved? British Columbia harness racing wagering was \$62.7 million. British Columbia thoroughbred racing wagering was \$142,719,000. Total wagering in the Province of British Columbia was \$205,421,528. In 1981, B.C. racing generated just over \$14 million in direct wagering taxes for the B.C. government. The national total, I might add, for all provincial governments was \$129 million. If only the provincial governments could be made to understand that if they would reduce the take-out, they would undoubtedly make more money. Anywhere that this has been done has resulted in more revenue for provincial governments rather than less. The latest example in recent years is British Columbia itself, where the take-out of the individual dollars bet was once 22 per cent, but when it was dropped to 18.2 per cent, guess what happened? The provincial government made considerably more money. The same thing happened in New York state, as well as in other jurisdictions.

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It is unfortunate that provincial politicians allow greed to get in the way of what makes more sense in terms of raising revenue for themselves. The fairer the break to the bettor, the more revenue that results. Referring to attendance in British Columbia, 468,804 attended B.C. harness racing last year. B.C. thoroughbred attendance was 1,085,858. There is an interesting sidelight in those figures, and that is the fact that this attendance total is in fact larger than the combined totals for attendance at all Vancouver Canuck hockey games, B.C. Lions football games, Whitecap soccer games and the Canadian baseball team. Put them all together and racing is still the largest sport, not only in my province, but also in North America.

I would like to mention a few Canadian racing statistics to emphasize the point again as to how important this legislation is to an industry which has been hurting. The total Canadian attendance at racetracks in 1981 was 14,001,942. This total was greater than the total attendance at all National Hockey League games, Canadian Football League games, North American Soccer League games and all professional baseball games. Put them all together and the total does not equal the attendance at racetracks.

Do hon. members know what is the largest single sporting event, if not in the world, certainly in North America? It is the

Kentucky Derby, in a city of 300,000 named Louisville, Kentucky. At that track 140,000 people paid attendance for the one race. On the particular day this year, \$5 million was bet through the mutuels at the race track on one race. Over \$11 million was bet for the one day at Churchill Downs.

What is the amount of money that was bet on races in Canada in 1981? It was \$1,709,659,905. In terms of its effect on the tourist industry in Canada, what does racing do? Manitoba is the only province in which statistics are kept. In 1981, \$9 million was generated in spending by tourists coming into the province for the horse races at Assiniboine Downs in Winnipeg. Most of these tourists came from North Dakota and Minnesota. That amount of \$9 million was generated because of a track well over 60 miles from the border. Consider the impact on our tourism of the Fort Erie racetrack across the river from the city of Buffalo, or of Exhibition Park in Vancouver, less than 20 miles from the Washington state border. The same applies to other tracks across the country which are close to an American audience.

I think that if we are really to understand this legislation and its importance, we must talk about some of the people involved in this game and some of the skills which are an absolutely vital necessity for the successful conduct of a race meeting. I am thinking of people like Grubb and Carberry on the prairies, Doug Reid in Vancouver and Darryl Wells here, men who could memorize 12 horses by their colours in less than three minutes and then accurately call a race being run, with very seldom a mistake. I am thinking of the jockeys who are, without a doubt, the highest paid athletes in the world, who take their lives in their hands several times a day when climbing on the backs of 1200-pound horses. These jockeys weigh 115 pounds. Imagine a 115-pound jockey on a 1200-pound horse which is supported by very thin and fragile legs, going at a speed of 40 miles an hour.

Consider the trainers, the crafty ones. Frank Christian in British Columbia is an example. He raised his horses in the Okanagan Valley. Every spring he would bring a few of them onto the racetrack. They would win a few races, he would sell his horses, and they would be gone by the end of June. Consider British Columbia's Sonny O'Connell, president of the Horsemen's Association of British Columbia, who once told me that if he had spent as much time with the bible as he had with the racing form, he would be a saint today! These are some of the people involved in racing.

Consider George Cummins who likes nothing better on the west coast than to pick up a horse and keep running it against better and better stock, winning all the way. Or take Frank Passero, for example, here in Ontario, who can claim another man's horse the race before it will win. Or a man named Tammaro, at Woodbine who can talk to two-year-olds, I believe.

Look at the working executives in this industry across the land, such as Jack Kenney, Irv Klugman in Ontario and Merv Peters in Vancouver, who run and work with a million problems every day. Bill Veeck, who is more well known for baseball, once ran Suffolk Downs in Boston for a while. He