protection of this sport long before the World Football League was even contemplated? Certainly safeguards are needed to keep our amateur junior teams viable.

Possibly the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) interfered in football at this stage of the game to set a precedent for Montreal. The ultimate use of the Olympic stadium after the 1976 Olympic Games by a National Football League team is a great possibility. It is a possibility that has been rumoured. Even Mayor Drapeau has suggested on numerous occasions in the past that it might be his wish to bring a National Football League team into Montreal. If this were to happen, then unfortunately the Montreal Alouettes, which do not get the crowds they deserve, would be hurt financially a great deal and, therefore, the Canadian Football League may suffer.

While we are on this subject of the protection of other sports, may I ask whether the government should not consider obtaining revenue for amateur sport development from foreign organizations such as professional ice shows? And I am speaking specifically about American ice shows, professional basketball teams, professional basketball players or golfers who come into this country. Why are we not concerned about them? They come into this country and continue to drain off all our top talents without contributing to Canadian amateur organizations which have invested their time and money in developing these athletes.

As I have previously outlined, I am opposed to this bill as it in no way serves its purpose of protecting the Canadian Football League. I believe that contrary to my wishes, however, the bill will pass into committee stage, at which time I hope hon. members will seriously consider options which will truly Canadianize professional sports in Canada but will at the same time allow foreign teams to play in Canada under certain conditions and with the approval of the local populace and their civic authorities.

Some of the options or amendments which in my opinion should be considered in professional sports in Canada—and I stress professional sports, not just professional football—are the following. First, to have the civic authority in the designated area consent to the foreign team operating in their area. Why should we not let the people of a certain area decide what they want to charge and what they want to participate in instead of meddling with business that is not even national or interprovincial business?

Second, the foreign team should guarantee to the satisfaction of a Canadian professional sports league concerned to save harmless the Canadian league that there will be no decrease in equalization payments based upon the sharing of gate receipts within the Canadian league due to the operation of the foreign team in the designated area.

Third, the foreign team, at the direction of, and in an amount determined by, the Canadian league, should contribute monies toward the support of the amateur league in Canada.

Fourth, the foreign team, and all other teams within that foreign league, should honour the contracts of players on teams operated by members of the Canadian league and not interfere with the regulation by the Canadian league

[Mr. Jelinek.]

of the recruitment and allocation of players within that league.

Fifth, the foreign team should undertake not to permit any game in which it participates in Canada to be broadcast in any area where such broadcast would, in the opinion of the Canadian league, adversely affect the gate, broadcasting or other receipts of a game in which two teams operated by members of the Canadian league are participating.

In this manner we would give the Canadian Football League, if we want to be specific and talk on football, the right to veto any particular team in any one city, rather than give the federal government authority to close the door on international competition. International competition has been the basis of all sports competition the world over. This government is now trying to stop that. It is trying to set a precedent with one sport. That has never before been seen in the world. In this manner also, Canadian professional sports would be protected to a greater extent than by totally banning international competition in a specific sport.

I said I would be brief and that I am embarrassed to be discussing football at this time, with all the problems we have arising from the inflationary situation. In closing, let me just say that, in retrospect, the Minister of National Health and Welfare should have closed his remarks in Regina last February with the following statement: "I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant."

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have read everything that has been written by all of the competing interests with regard to this debate and I have heard advanced various theories with regard to the motivation of the government in bringing forward this bill.

I want to say to the members of the government and the House that, as a member of this House, I carry into it no brief for either of the professional organizations involved which will either be the recipient of a benefit or a burden, as the case may be, from this legislation. However, I do carry a brief into this House for the people I have the honour to represent. I have heard from some of those people, and from what I have heard the opinion of those who have written or telephoned me accords with mine. That is fortunate. The opinion is that if ever there was an ill-conceived piece of legislation, and ill-timed in terms of the problems which face our country today, it is this.

Mr. Sharp: Then why don't you sit down?

Mr. Baker: I must say that I have been sitting in this House throughout this debate. I have been listening desperately to the government attempting to do indirectly what it wants to do directly, and that is to withdraw the bill by asking us to stop talking on it.

● (2020)

An hon. Member: Come again?

Mr. Sharp: How will you vote?