

Supply—National Health and Welfare

new facilities to incarcerate youthful adventurers. Government estimates across the country, whether provincial or federal, show a vast increase in the amounts budgeted to imprison youthful offenders. Yet we seem to hold the line in almost every level of government on programs to rehabilitate our young people and prevent social problems before they begin. I think that this situation is really scandalous. We intend to invest \$5 million in the promotion of fitness and amateur sport, an amount equivalent to that which would be required to construct five miles of roadway in the Fraser canyon in the province of British Columbia. This, Mr. Chairman, is not good enough.

A nationwide fitness program, a program of physical development to promote amateur sport, entered into in conjunction with provincial governments and local organizations, is one of the best areas in which to invest our money. I believe that the national advisory council on fitness and amateur sport should be granted powers beyond its present limit of merely being an advisory body. The council should become semi-autonomous. What we need is the establishment of a Canada-wide sports foundation. This should act as a depository for individual donations for the advancement of Canadian athletics, such donations to be deductible for income tax purposes up to a certain figure.

Every time Canada fails at the Olympics, Mr. Chairman, there are people who say that the game is the thing, that it really does not matter who wins. This is nonsense, and we really do not believe it at all. We should like a Canadian hockey team to win an international competition once in a while. We have sent our valiant athletes to Mexico City—and they are valiant, Mr. Chairman, because in order to get them there we had to have a tin can collection in Vancouver. We had to beg people for their assistance in getting our athletes to Mexico City, and this is why they are valiant athletes. These men and women are racing down there and carrying the flag of Canada under the most difficult possible conditions.

As I say, Mr. Chairman, I believe that we need a semi-autonomous body to promote fitness and amateur sport. Specific programs should be directed to the promotion of competitive athletics. A general fitness research program for the country, a program to promote useful leisure time activities and recreation, should be a separate program under the minister's department.

[Mr. Perrault.]

As I say, at the present time the national advisory council on fitness and amateur sport is an advisory body only, not an action-taking body. I hope the minister will change its status. All of us are encouraged by the fact that a study of sport is now under way in this country, and it is to the minister's credit that he supports and sponsors the study and has made a number of announcements about it. We need a semi-autonomous body to direct and administer a program based on policies that are recommended by the advisory council and approved by the minister. We need long range planning and the establishment of goals. We need an adequate budget for this competitive program and for the general fitness program.

When we talk in terms of \$5 million for fitness and amateur sport, Mr. Chairman, I am impressed by the fact that, according to some figures given to me, Canadians from coast to coast spent the sum of \$1,129,310,000 on alcohol, wine and beer and other spirits. A fantastic amount, Mr. Chairman; Over \$1 billion is spent on booze. Yet \$5 million appropriated to fitness and amateur sport, money spent to help people direct their efforts into constructive channels, is the limit of our capability.

The tax revenue received by the federal government in 1967 by way of tobacco sales tax amounted to \$461,266,414. I am not indicting the federal government or the minister; he is just starting out with this program. However, we do need an entirely new approach toward our priorities. For example, figures are presented each year in the province of British Columbia showing the profits derived from the sale of alcohol. Last year the premier of British Columbia said that the province had made a profit of \$40 million from the sale of liquor. Yet alcohol in the province of British Columbia causes \$85 million worth of social damage each year.

If we project that situation into the national scene we find we are heavy losers in the whole area of alleged "revenue" from tobacco sales and the sale of alcoholic beverages. Surely some of the profits that are derived from such sales should be spent to a greater extent on the promotion of fitness and amateur sport. I hope that the department engages in a far more vigorous program of education in the months and years to come.

A few years ago in Manitoba a study of alcoholism was conducted. May I quote from