



THE SCOTSMAN

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DEBATE OVER BILL TO BAN GAMBLING ON 20/04/ CERTAIN SPORTS

Intense debate has been raging for several days now over the Animal Sports Betting Restrictions bill that bans gambling on horse and greyhound racing. The shadow SoS for Communities (Rt. Hon. onewithsergio) who authored the bill argued in the House

that by banning the gambling on Horse and Greyhound Racing it would “prevent the cruel tampering with animals, including injecting them with illegal substances.” He also added in the bill that any Bookmaker in breach of these regulations would be subject to a minimum fine of £25,000 and a revocation of their license.

This caused immediate condemnation from much of the House with the SoS for Scotland declaring that



if they wished to ban the sport altogether that is what they should have introduced and that “sponges... make up the collective spines of the Green party”

It was however, the economic consequences of the bill that brought most of its criticism. The Labour Leader akc8

pointing out that Horse and Greyhound racing collectively are worth £4.9Billion to the UK economy each year and, that this would be a loss that would be sorely be felt. Indeed such a loss according to one leading expert in the industry would cause much of it to become financially unsustainable with a large amount of the takings derived from this Sports. In particular independent Bookmakers look set to be the hardest hit if this bill were to pass onto the legislature.

Cont. Bottom Page 2

NEW COMMONS SPEAKER TO BE ELECTED

After the shock resignation of Zoto888 from the speakership a wide open race to replace him as the next Common's speaker has emerged with the leading candidates Indigorolo and colassalteuthid neck and neck as voting commences. Both of them look set to be far more popular with the right than Zoto888 who was well known for his radical views which made him a controversial figure among many prior to his election to the speakership.



SOS SCOTLAND LAYS OUT PLAN IN GOVERNMENT DOSSIER

The SoS Scotland laid out his plan for Scotland in this parliament as part of the Government's policy document. Within it he set out a series of new infrastructure projects as well as commitments to existing ones. Perhaps most notable among them was a proposed extension to the M1 to Edinburgh. This would be combined with Education reform as well as a promise to work on a post Brexit fisheries



policy if the United Kingdom leaves the Common Fisheries Policy. Finally were commitments to protecting forestry in the Highlands and ship building jobs on the

Clyde and Forth as well as a Strong show of support for the union with the Minister stating: the government would be opposed to any independence referendum. The shadow SoS Scotland was opposed to this arguing that it was not the will of the Scottish people.

PRIME MINISTER UNDER CRITICISM AFTER PERCEIVED INSULT

In PMQ's yesterday the Prime Minister InfernoPlato came under fire from the opposition over the letter he sent to the newly elected Taoiseach. In the letter the Prime Minister said, "We won't treat you as an Irish Opposition but as a member of the British Opposition so we'll hit back. So when your leader complains about us and our ignorance of Irish affairs, we won't hold back". The opposition said that the Prime Minister was threatening the Taoiseach with this statement. However, the Prime Minister argued that as the Solidarity Party of Ireland also have 3 MP's in the House of Commons any attack on the government would be treated as an attack on it by the opposition. This is an unusual situation for the government. In the past parties that stood in both parliaments would refuse to take their seats in the Commons. Indeed it did not stop there as the Prime Minister was angry at the release of this private letter to the British Press. Calling it, "releasing private discussions to the press and Official Opposition in an attempt to damage the British government is more of a faux pas [than the statement in the letter]". This is not a promising start for the relations between the two new governments but it is hoped by many on both sides that this can smoothed over.

BOOKMAKERS OUTRAGED BY GAMBLING BILL

Cont. Page 1 This has caused uproar in the industry with the National Association of Bookmakers saying in a statement, "This bill is nothing short of an attack on our members and their livelihoods. If this bill were to pass our industry would be devastated across the country and thousands of our members would end up losing their jobs"

Indeed such has been the vitriol on both sides over this Bill there is to be a televised debate regarding the issue on BBC1 tonight at 8pm. The debate will be between the Downing Street Press Secretary and SoS for Communities and Local Government ggeogg and his opposite and author of the bill onewithsergio. With the house having to be called to order several times during the session in which the

Bill was debated we can also expect this to be somewhat lively.

