

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Althouse: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Parliamentary Secretary would resolve in the new year to attempt to answer at least a few of the many, many questions that New Democrats have on the Order Paper.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Just the ones that are worthwhile.

Mr. Dick: The reason they have not been answered is that they were not put on at the earliest stages as some of the other ones were. But I should point out that of the 32 questions from Conservative Members which have been answered, 30 were repeat questions from the last Parliament. Of the 13 answered for Liberals, five were in fact withdrawn. We will get on to that as soon as possible.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1984

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Thursday, December 20, consideration of the motion of Mr. Crosbie that Bill C-18, an Act to amend the Criminal Code, to amend an Act to amend the Criminal Code and to amend the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Act, the Excise Act, the Food and Drugs Act, the Narcotic Control Act, the Parole Act and the Weights and Measures Act, to repeal certain other Acts and to make other consequential amendments, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Mr. Speaker: If I remember the terms of the special Order, reading the Order has the effect of second reading.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Call it.

Mr. Speaker: Accordingly, the Bill stands referred to the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Currency Act

● (1220)

CURRENCY ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Supply and Services) moved that Bill C-21, an Act to amend the Currency Act, be read the second time and referred to a Committee of the Whole.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. Bill C-21, an Act to amend the Currency Act, is a simple one-clause Bill which permits the Royal Canadian Mint to mint a \$20 silver coin. The purpose of allowing the Mint this ability is to launch the Olympic coin program which will provide some of the funds the federal Government has committed to the Calgary Winter Olympics.

It is the intention of the Mint, through this vehicle, to generate non-tax revenues in keeping with the commitment by the Government to the Calgary Olympics. This is proposed to be done by issuing 10 issues of a \$20 silver coin containing one ounce of silver and one issue of a \$100 22-carat gold coin containing one-half ounce of pure gold. That will be a maximum mintage, Mr. Speaker, of five million silver coins and 350,000 gold coins.

The Mint feels fairly confident that it will be able to sell a minimum of three million silver coins earning approximately \$30 million for the Calgary Olympics. If they are totally successful and sell out the entire issue, \$50 million will be raised for the Calgary Olympics.

I should point out, Mr. Speaker, that the Royal Canadian Mint is the largest seller of numismatic coins in the world. They have an impressive track record and I believe the House can have some confidence in their ability to meet their objective. It should also be pointed out for the benefit of the House that there is no financial risk to the Government in this program because all costs are related and deductible from the sale of coins.

The Royal Canadian Mint is confident that it can achieve this goal by 1988 with the launch of the first issue on September 1, 1985. I should thank the Opposition for its co-operation in this effort because it is important that the Mint have the ability to proceed with this program very quickly inasmuch as in 1988 there will be Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea. They too will be launching a coin program so, in a sense, there is some competition there. It is useful for us to be first off the mark around the world. I should point out that the coins will be sold around the world.

The federal Government has committed \$200 million of non-tax revenues to the Olympic Games. My colleague, the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Jelinek), is working very diligently to seek ways of raising the additional funds beyond this coin program. The Royal Canadian Mint is working with him to discover whether there are other means we can use. We are hopeful that we will find the means to raise the necessary funds to meet that commitment to the Calgary Olympics.