

Olympic Bill

professional. However, that is not what we are being asked to do here today.

It is very interesting to deal with Mr. Drapeau: you do not deal in realities but in dreams. Without doubt he is the best salesman I have ever met. I have met him on a number of occasions. I am as gullible as many other members of parliament. I have been sold on a number of things by Mr. Drapeau and later found there was a lot of salesmanship in a nicely packaged proposition. I remember in particular the long speech by Mr. Drapeau two years prior to the Expo development. We were treated to a special wine in the restaurant on St. Helen's Island which is owned by the city of Montreal. Mr. Drapeau indicated that he had the only kind of wine produced in an area which produced a special kind of brandy: this was the elixir of all wines. Everyone is aware that with regard to the vintage of wine the choice is made in various ways. The choice is often made on a personal basis. However, I think there were few at that banquet who were not sold on the idea that he had control of the wine from the best wine producing area in France and it could be purchased only through this franchise.

I think Mr. Drapeau has done this in a very interesting way. Members of parliament should consider the method suggested for raising money for the Olympics. They should consider what we are being asked to provide, and then decide—leaving aside all the ballyhoo that goes into salesmanship—whether we wish to participate to the extent of \$250 million.

The last three Olympic games were very interesting. I refer to the games in Mexico, Munich and the summer games held in Winnipeg several years ago. In each case there was considerable argument about whether they constituted amateur sport. Most people concluded that amateur sport in one country does not mean the same thing in another. The only way we can agree with the decision of Mr. Brundage on what is amateur sport is by referring to the kind of sport in which he recently engaged, namely when he married a very young, attractive girl. I think that kind of sport is highly accepted in most countries and is considered of equal status in most areas. That kind of amateur sport is carried on universally. Other than that, "amateur" does not have any relationship to whether somebody has on the back of his jacket a manufacturer's name indicating that he has been sponsored as far as his clothes are concerned. What is important is how that amateur has developed and the method in which his country has decided to support him. It is a disgrace that this country has assisted in only a very limited way the development of our athletes. For that reason we do not have anywhere near the calibre of athletes we should have. Because of our northern climate we should excel in many sports. However, this has not been the case in many of the Olympic games.

Another point that raises considerable difficulty with regard to participation in the Olympics stems from the fact that they were originally conducted as between cities. At that time the cities of ancient Greece and Asia Minor were autonomous states. They had armies and fought against each other. They developed state societies comparable to most state developments in the world today. We negotiate on the basis of a city obtaining the Olympic

[Mr. Peters.]

games. One city competes against others in the same country to hold the Olympics, when obviously the games should be sponsored by the nation. They are participated in by the nation. It does not matter whether the Olympic games are being held in Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver. We would be less than fair to the Canadian people if we did not accept the fact that the Olympics are going to be held in Canada and will be a Canadian venture. For this reason the government should quit playing around and decide to support the Olympics as Canadians, and put up a certain sum of money.

● (1510)

The proposition before us is totally ridiculous. My hon. friend has pointed out that the best we were ever able to do in the way of selling coins was when we sold approximately a million in centennial year. Those coins did not get into the monetary system; nobody expected they would. On that occasion—and I know, because I was involved—the Mint required assured sales for every coin set in advance before these coins were minted. There was absolutely no question of the Mint being left with unsold coin sets. The Mint has never been in the habit of holding coins. Great interest was generated across the country by the appearance of this centennial set. We produced a gold coin for the first time in 30 or 40 years. Such coins were easily transported to the United States and many of them were destined to find their way into coin collections across the world. The fact that a gold coin had been minted obviously had a great effect on sales.

Mr. Drapeau is now talking of putting out about \$144 million worth of coinage; these coins are to be sold to the city of Montreal and other agencies on the basis of \$2 production costs and \$5 sale value only if they are not put into general circulation. So the sale value would be in excess of \$500 million. The President of Treasury Board will have to tell us at some point how he will decide which coins are to go into general circulation and which into the hands of collectors.

Mr. Drury: All.

Mr. Peters: The President of Treasury Board says, "All". I presume he means that all are going into the collecting field. That cannot be the case because, as my hon. friend pointed out, these are not medallions, but coins; they can be redeemed at a bank because they are legal tender. It will not be possible to sell as many coins as Mayor Drapeau hopes. We are therefore being asked, in reality, to provide \$3 for every set of coins minted; that \$3 can either be picked up by the Treasury Board through the banking system or it can be picked up by the coin dealers because they will be paying \$5.

Hopefully, much of the money will come from collectors in other countries interested in obtaining these proof sets as souvenirs. They, of course, will be paying the full \$5 and the seigniorage in that case will be available to the Olympic authorities. But the seigniorage on coins turned back to the bank will have to be paid by the Canadian people, and I presume history will show in 1976 or 1977, when the accounting has been done, that two-thirds of the coinage will have gone into circulation and the seigniorage will not have been collected legitimately by the Olympics