Oral Questions

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, that statement is an example of the tyranny of the hon. gentleman.

[Translation]

MANPOWER

POSSIBLE PAYMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COSTS OF FARM WORKERS

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

My question deals with the travelling expenses of tomato, cucumber and apple pickers. I have been told in my area that the office is no longer authorized to reimburse the travelling expenses of pickers of 16 to 18 years of age. Can the minister confirm what is being said at our local office?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take the question as notice. I do not believe that is an accurate interpretation, if in fact it was given by manpower officials. I shall look into the matter and be in touch with the hon. gentleman.

OLYMPIC GAMES

REQUEST FOR ACCOUNTING PRIOR TO DECISION ON MINTING GOLD COIN AND ASSURANCE NO FURTHER AID GIVEN—SCHEDULE FOR MINTING GOLD COINS

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the fact that the Olympic organizing committee has postponed the announcement of its deficit budget until early July and has experienced difficulty in obtaining actual construction costs in the city of Montreal which is handling some \$500 million in its budget a great part of which is the result of federal financing, and does not intend to disclose any further construction costs until the books are closed, would the minister assure the House that he will obtain a full account of the moneys to be spent to finance the games, particularly as a result of federal financing, and table this account before the gold coin amendment is agreed to?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): In co-operation with COJO and the City of Montreal, Mr. Speaker, we are trying to make possible the self-financing of the Olympic Games. The House has been called upon to vote on a number of self-financing programs. But the very administration of the Olympic Games being the responsibility of COJO, I am not going to go and tell them how to manage their own affairs, for the government has decided not to assume any deficit at the end of the games. We are in fact helping COJO assure the self-financing of the games, and the purpose of the program which would result from the new legislation which was

introduced yesterday is to provide them with a new means to achieve this end. As to the information the hon. member is seeking, I am sure the Mayor of Montreal would be eager to meet with hon. members and discuss this with them.

[English]

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, we should like to meet the mayor of Montreal; but, really, the runaway deficits should be stopped rather than fed further fuel. They have already run out of control. My supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board is this: in view of reports that the Royal Mint is presently overloaded with work already undertaken, could the minister provide the House with a tentative schedule showing when and in what quantity gold coins will be minted, bearing in mind that the silver coin series has been greatly criticized for being implemented too late and that the many hold-ups in the program will make it difficult to attain the target originally intended.

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, the information received in this regard indicates that the Royal Mint is capable of minting the gold coins early enough for them to be distributed before the Olympic Games. We have been assured of it through the Minister of Supply and Services. So there is no problem in this connection, as far as I am concerned.

[English]

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a short supplementary question. Can the minister assure the House that after Bill C-64 is passed no further aid for the games will be asked of this parliament?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, the position of the Canadian government concerning this matter is quite clear. If there is a deficit, it will be absorbed jointly by the City of Montreal and the province of Quebec. The federal government has only assumed the responsibility for helping them help themselves in becoming self-supporting. This is just what we are doing by presenting a new bill to the House for its consideration.

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES PENDING CONSULTATION WITH NATIVE PEOPLE

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Prime Minister? As the Minister of Justice said yesterday, when speaking to a group of 68 Indian chiefs and 120 native people, "there is no way we can ignore the strength of your feelings and views about the guidelines...", is it government policy now not to implement the guidelines by the July 1 deadline, in order to give the Indian people across the country a chance to make representations to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I direct this question to the Prime Minister, Sir, because the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is not in the House today.