

*Olympic Bill*

reaching decisions. The only way to do this is to give on occasion as little direction as is possible to hon. members in order that we may come to that position.

● (1730)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. De Bané:** Mr. Speaker, let this be clearly understood. If 60 per cent of the incomes of Montrealers were not below \$4,000 and if, as I will quote the figures later on, the federal government itself had not stated that the city of Montreal as a financial, manufacturing and commercial centre, was going to pot, I would certainly be in favour of the Olympic Games. But, as I said earlier, to govern is to choose and after I have described the problems facing the city of Montreal, you will see why I find unreasonable the priority given to the Games which are going to cost half a billion dollars.

This is enough! If it is a shame to mention the true problems faced by Montreal in this House, I really wonder whether the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Roy) believes in democracy.

**Mr. Roy (Laval):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I am speaking as a member for the metropolitan area. When the hon. member for Matane suggested that Montreal is going to pot, I think he went too far.

**Mr. De Bané:** The hon. member is right, I went too far, but anyway I think—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. Perhaps it is time for the Chair to bring some order into this debate. The hon. members in their speeches should deal with the purposes of the legislation, and the bill before us is certainly not intended to replace the Montreal authorities who decided to organize the Olympic Games.

The bill before us is aimed at finding ways of financing the city of Montreal and on this point it is understandable that hon. members should disagree. However, I think this is not the proper time to debate this economical and social question, especially the situations to be found elsewhere in Canada as in Montreal.

Now I would ask hon. members' co-operation so that they abstain as much as possible from making points of order and try to stick to the discussion now going on and dealing with ways to finance the organization of the Olympic Games of Montreal.

**Mr. De Bané:** Mr. Speaker, I will spell out the real scope of the legislation now before us and quote the findings of the financial analyses tabled by the government. The estimated revenue amounts to \$160 million, 100 million of which will come from the sale of coins, \$32 million from lotteries, \$10 million from stamps, for a total of \$142 million.

Without the bill which is now before us, the Olympic Games cannot take place. And this is, in my view, Mr. Speaker, the reason why I try to explain that would there not be more urging needs in Montreal than this event which will last two weeks and cost \$500 million, things would be quite different. I always try, like everybody else, but I say to myself that everyone of us must make a choice every day as what seems most urging among the thousand

[*The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel).*]

requests which are made to us. And I think that a society which is unable to settle more satisfactorily the problem of its poor because of a lack of financial means, but which is able to find out half a billion dollars for the implementation of a two-week program is sick, unable to make choices which are, I suggest, essential.

Let us say a few words, Mr. Speaker, about the problems of the city of Montreal on which the whole prosperity of the province of Quebec rests because it is the cornerstone.

The Montreal Urban Community has just tabled a draft of a development project and we can see that there is no sewage treatment plant in the Montreal area. Nobody is able to swim in the waters that surround Montreal and yet, Montreal is supposed to be an island. Of course, water and air pollution problems have become very serious. A few neighbourhoods of the city of Montreal are in real decay and they say that there is no money available to save them.

I stated earlier that over 60 per cent of the people had an annual income of less than \$4,000; to a tragic extent, Montreal is lacking in green spaces and without this bill, once more, the Olympic Games cannot take place; it is thanks to this bill that they will get more than 90 per cent of the revenue. According to the proposals of the MUC regional planning and development service, as stated in the project recently tabled in the MUC, green spaces would cost, according to experts, about \$200 million.

Moreover the Hanigan report is extremely pessimistic concerning the sharp rise in expenses in the urban community while revenues are stable and Montreal vacant lot rate is now 20 per cent. Actually to revitalize the centre of the city, which empties every night, and where people come back in the morning, which results in colossal traffic jams, that would imply a huge endeavour. Pedestrian promenades, sheltered sectors should be prepared, trees should be planted, land banks created, which alone would cost \$300 million. That would enable us of course to administer Montreal a lot more cheaply.

Those are some of the problems facing the city of Montreal. And still, one will approve this afternoon a gigantic project, described a while ago by the hon. President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury), while, as recently as last winter, the Mayor of Montreal closed the children's skating rinks because the city of Montreal did not have the money to maintain them. And we are being told that something will be done to improve sporting activities.

The Montreal urban community transportation commission has just indicated an unprecedented deficit of \$9 million, and that does not stop pollution to be more serious than ever in the centre of the city. The urban community police service will cost more than \$100 million this year, and that does not stop the president of the union from saying that a walkout as tragic as the one which happened in October, 1969 could occur again soon. The city has no money to hire more experts for the Fire Prevention Department, following the Blue Bird tragedy which took the lives of 27 people and that on Park Avenue where at least six older people died. The city has no money to get rid of sheds which are public hazards. The city has not yet paid for creating Notre Dame Island at a cost of \$30 million and sets upon destroying 9,000 acres of it for sports. Montreal now has over 100,000 lodgings which, for