

It is fine to hear all of these problems mentioned in the Speech from the Throne after ignoring them for four years, but the government's sincerity to act on the multitude of topics it outlined is questionable, particularly in view of the fact that the government and its new friends in the House even refused to take care of the most pressing problem of the old age pensioners, a problem which is long overdue for solution.

• (1750)

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, even key Liberals no longer believe the present government can solve Canada's economic problems. For example, Charles Templeton, former leader of the Ontario provincial Liberal party, a strong voice for the Liberals in the media for many years and an organizer and strategist for the Liberals, admitted on his radio program on CKEY last week in Toronto that the archaic principles followed by the Liberal government cannot solve the problems of unemployment and inflation, and that the Progressive Conservatives should form the government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, turning to an area that is of importance for the general physical and mental well-being of all Canadians, in this regard I was happy to submit a private member's notice on January 4 of this year which reads as follows:

That this House, affirming that Canada should adopt physical fitness and athletic excellence as a major national goal—as well as for the health and general well-being of Canadians as for the contribution which a successful sports program can make to Canadian unity and to the Canadian identity recommends that a national council for sports be established which would support and co-ordinate the activities of regional training centres to be built in various areas of Canada by the federal government in consultation with the provinces, sports governing bodies and community groups.

I was interested to see that the throne speech stated:

In response to the increasing importance of fitness for the well-being and health of Canadians and the need for greater opportunities for people to participate in sports activities, the federal government has proposed over the next three years to more than double the current level of expenditures under the fitness and amateur sports program.

I was puzzled, however, Mr. Speaker, that no mention was made in the throne speech of the world international event, the Olympic games, an event that not only tightens national unity within a country but, indeed, attempts to bind together all countries around the world. We all know that today's magnitude of the games could become a costly proposition and thus, most probably, a problem with far reaching consequences. I suggest that the government, even though it has been in constant touch with the various Olympic organizing committees, has been most obvious in trying to evade this issue, and therefore I should like to make some suggestions regarding this matter through this House.

Realizing the possibilities of incurring high costs, we must look for some options or alternatives. The Olympic Games in recent years have become much too large and complicated, both in regard to facilities and the number of participants, to be held in any one city. They are no longer the games consisting of a small scattering of

individual athletes, as was the case a decade or so ago when I was lucky enough to represent Canada at the Olympics.

I believe that Montreal is the city best able to cope with the multitude of problems that would be faced by staging the games in Canada. However, because of the costs and added possible benefits to our country, we should consider partially decentralizing the games somewhat along the lines of the Munich Olympics, which in fact took place in as many as seven different cities, one as far away as 550 miles from Munich.

For example, Mr. Speaker, do we have to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on gymnastic facilities? No; Laval University, in Quebec City, has one of the best sports complexes in North America. Do we have to spend millions of dollars on an Olympic pool for swimming and diving? No; Winnipeg has the country's best, and the Etobicoke Jaycees near Toronto are in the process of planning one, with no government aid.

Ottawa-Hull has one of the world's finest shooting ranges. St. Catharines has the only Henley rowing course in Canada—the world's finest—on which the federal government has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars. Kingston is made to order for sailing, and Toronto, with its large ethnic population alone, is ideal for soccer; and on and on—to save money and to promote good will, to reap benefits by permitting larger proportions of the Canadian population to benefit both monetarily and socially by seeing and feeling their part in the Olympic games, and to boost tourism, both on a short-term and long-term basis, whether it be through travel, accommodation or gaining international reputation and Canadian self-esteem.

The facilities alone must eventually be built across different areas of Canada as this country has already committed itself to holding no less than seven major sporting events of national significance before the end of 1976. These are the Canada games in 1973, the Canada Olympics in 1974, the PanAmerican games trials in 1975, the Canada winter games in 1975, the Canada Olympic games trials in 1976, the Canada Olympics in 1976 and the Olympic games in 1976.

Mr. Speaker, if Montreal were to agree to somewhat decentralize the games, I believe that the Olympics would provide more than tourism, facilities and international esteem. Starting now, the Olympics could be, and should be, the rallying point, the stimulus to make the people of Canada physically fit. When you consider that Canada's 30-year old males have the same physical fitness rating as some 60-year old males in Sweden, it is shocking. I am glad to see the government is getting off its seat, though very, very slowly, to help our spectator populace to do the same. Looking around the House, I would suggest that this is one instance where some members should take notice.

I know that in the minds of many people it is important to win medals in the Olympic games, and I suppose it is. However, I do not believe that a vast program of financial aid over the next four years to train our best prospects for 1976 is the whole answer. Athletic excellence at the Olympics should not be our only goal—physical fitness and health for everyone should be our main objective. We will