

The Address—Mr. Jelinek

this, NBC sent a long telegram to Lord Killanin, president of IOC, on December 19 outlining their position and their concern regarding the mishandling, in their opinion, of this entire matter. Lord Killanin eventually stated:

Future television negotiations will be conducted jointly by the organizing committee and the IOC board.

We must keep in mind that up to this time the organizing committee has done all the negotiating on its own throughout the history of the Olympics. Then we have the public statement by the vice president of ABC of last Friday, as follows:

If I am to criticize the Montreal organizing committee on any part of it, it would be over not immediately announcing the contract when we reached first agreement almost a month before the announcement.

Much earlier the NBC made the following public statement:

NBC continues to believe that the procedures used to award American television rights to the 1976 Olympic games are contrary to the best interests of the people of Canada, and the American television audience and the games themselves. The organizing committee's unwillingness to follow the procedure of open bidding raises serious questions which are still unanswered.

Finally, on January 3, after all these contradictory statements, a joint announcement was made by COJO and ABC announcing that officially ABC had been awarded the television rights to the 1976 Olympics, notwithstanding the fact that the ABC board of directors in November, 1972, had approved the \$25 million fee for Olympic coverage, which also was approved by COJO, subject to certain conditions that had not yet been completely finalized.

In an article published in the *Montreal Star* in the latter part of January, 1974, serious allegations were made concerning a request of direct payment of money to the Quebec Liberal Party for the rights to negotiate the television contract, as well as an NBC internal decision to bid considerably higher than \$25 million. Most assuredly, statements with such serious implications are not made without regard to factual sources and to this end I quote an affidavit by the author of the *Montreal Star* article. It is as follows:

I, John Robertson, am willing to testify to the accuracy of all statements, including those attributed to others, carried under my byline in the *Montreal Star* in columns and news stories involving the sale of the North American TV rights to the 1976 Olympic games to the American Broadcasting Company.

Beyond this, Mr. Robertson in his own investigation over the past year has documented evidence to support most of the allegations I have brought forward. His documentation on its own proves beyond doubt that serious irregularities did indeed take place. Statements that moneys did in fact find their way into the Quebec Liberal coffers have been made by more than one source, including numerous statements made to me; but no documented proof regarding this matter has been made available.

To those critics who insist that total proof be brought forward before an inquiry is conducted, let me answer by saying that if we had all the proof, the inquiry in order to get to the full truth would not be necessary. There is just so much that any private individual can do without a public investigation. Quite obviously, I do not have the power to subpoena records and I do not have the power to call witnesses to testify under oath. Without these powers we cannot have definite proof, and a shroud of suspicion

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will remain over this entire affair. I have proof, however, that not only did COJO sell the rights to ABC without open bidding; they also gave them a separate agreement guaranteeing that they would be able to match any competitive bid within 30 days in the event bidding did take place.

By far the most serious piece of documented evidence I can provide is the fact that two top officials of COJO as late as December 14, 1972, some weeks after ABC had secretly acquired the rights, personally invited both NBC and CBS to come to Montreal to bid for the rights when indeed they had in fact already been sold. I repeat, the fact that they had planned to conduct this charade is proof enough that COJO tried to cover up after selling the rights secretly in order to create an illusion of open bidding.

The facts here are obvious and speak for themselves. I have made very clear the federal government's responsibility in this matter, particularly as it relates directly to several federal ministries. The contract itself paves the way for an alternate in case of an investigation and the resulting voiding of this contract by either the provincial or the federal government or by COJO itself. The entire matter in which the contract between COJO and ABC was drawn up is more than a little suspect in its make-up.

I have presented this House with documented statements involving serious conflict in times and dates, and I have presented further evidence of statements from the major U.S. television networks. With these documented facts and their surrounding discrepancies, I personally once again call upon the Prime Minister to initiate an immediate investigation, without hindering any progress to the eventual staging of the Olympic games, to once and for all clear up a situation which if left unsolved can only leave each Canadian suspicious of the entire Olympic ideal.

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, for the second time since I was elected I have been exposed to a Speech from the Throne, and when I use the word "exposed" I think I allude correctly to the state of affairs in the Liberal Party and the Liberal government. I have the distinct impression that the government has run up to the public, flashed open its trenchcoat to reveal its new clothes but, much like the emperor of the Hans Anderson fairy-tale, there is nothing to show—indeed, not even the bare essentials.

The crisis of the cost of living in this country requires more substance than has been offered. For instance, it is not adequate that the government promises "reasonable food prices" when prices have been steadily rising without government intervention. The people in my riding are suffering now, never mind tomorrow. I shall read some letters which I have received from constituents over the past two weeks, to give hon. members an idea what people are up against in a real way at this time. These are the real problems, not the problems of the ivory tower where unresponsive, indecisive, banal clichés are rolled out like so much confederate money. I should like to take this opportunity during the debate on the Speech from the Throne to give real voice to the feelings of the people of my constituency.