

either dropping or going ahead with the Olympic Games project.

Mr. De Bané: Mr. Speaker, I would like—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order! It is difficult to accept the point of order raised by the hon. member for Laval. First, I do not consider it a point of order, but rather a very serious argument leading to a debate. I therefore cannot authorize the hon. member to reply to a point of order which is not one.

The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe is being recognized.

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, as a member of parliament and as a Quebecer, I must say I am proud of this bill. I must say that I am also very happy to have heard, this afternoon, on behalf of our party, the member for High Park-Humber Valley (Mr. Jelinek) express with conviction the attitude of our party leader (Mr. Stanfield) and that of the party itself with regard to this bill. We agree with the principle of this bill. We realize what challenge the 1976 Olympic Games represent. We have faith in our Canadian compatriots, we have faith in this Canadian and international initiative; therefore, it is with pride that we will vote for the motion for second reading.

Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago, we heard the end of the speech of the hon. member for Matane, parliamentary secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. He started his speech in Shakespeare's language with these words which were indeed spoken very elegantly, and I quote:

J'ai l'intention de voter contre le bill à l'étude.

● (2040)

Mr. Speaker, I would have expected from a Quebec member, from a parliamentary secretary who is an expert in international affairs, a great deal more open-mindedness, generosity and sensitivity, less limited outlooks, and still we have had to suffer during those 40 minutes and sympathize with the president of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) and I think with all hon. members, except maybe the members of the New Democratic Party who have their own reasons to oppose this bill.

Their reason is indeed their very own as one member says, since it is the only bill they can oppose without fear of overthrowing the government.

I would have expected, Mr. Speaker, that a parliamentary secretary would not have shown such defeatism, such pessimism, that he would take advantage of this rostrum to attack Mayor Drapeau and the city of Montreal. That goes to show that he can be very brave. Whenever one attacks an absent opponent one is supposed to be brave. But I think that the mayor of Montreal will know how to reply to him; the mayor of Montreal can put back certain facts which were taken out of context and answer back those who do not share his views for lack of knowledge of the facts.

Recently, the mayor of Montreal had the opportunity to give a spirited reply to a minister of the provincial cabinet. I suppose he will be able to answer back someone who is anxiously waiting at the cabinet doorstep.

Olympic Bill

Mr. Speaker, I say this very sincerely: never had a member of this House expressed such a death wish and never has a Quebec member done so much in such a short time—a little more than forty minutes—to sell short the province of Quebec, the metropolis and the whole country while we—when I say “we” I mean many members—we like to make people throughout Canada understand Quebec and its objectives, so that a truly Canadian unity can be achieved from sea to sea. I say that it is with a heavy heart that I had to bear with such a plea by the hon. member for Matane whom the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Cyr) had already described in some writing in 1971, but I shall refrain from recalling it at this time.

Mr. Speaker, there are unfortunately people who are spineless in the face of challenges that normally bring out enthusiasm on the part of real men. Sadly enough there are still people who use the cause of the most underprivileged among us with a demagogy that is unworthy of the image they create about themselves at a certain time. Such behaviour in this House, Mr. Chairman is not an “Operation—self respect” for the Canadian people. To sterile dissenters, wherever they may be, to dissenters retired into their shell, to professional dissenters, personally I prefer builders.

I prefer those who devote their energy to build rather than those who protest permanently. I do not think that as Canadians and Quebecers we should have any inferiority complex.

Somewhat like his Excellency Roger Rousseau, the General Commissioner to the 1976 Olympic games, and because I am interested in anything international, it is this aspect of the Olympiad which first retained my attention, this international aspect which unfortunately escaped the attention of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The Olympic spirit whose purposes were redefined by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, is at the root of mankind, without any distinction of race, colour, economic or political status. A few years back we have seen a modest Ethiopian, Abebe Bekila, move the whole world by his impressive victories in the 26 mile marathon which he covered on his bare feet.

Many of us recall how, in Munich, the athletes of both Germanies warmly shook hands. Thanks to the Olympic spirit, many men and women scattered throughout the world will compete and fully live the *mens sana in corpore sano* maxim during the next three years.

Moreover, for three years the rest of the world will have their eyes on Canada. It was a proud moment for Canadians when at the end of the Munich games the next appointment was “Montreal in 1976!”

The Olympic spirit is involving the whole humanity even more than the world exhibitions mostly devoted to culture. I believe in sports per se and in the Olympic spirit mainly as a unifying factor. His Excellency Roger Rousseau, former ambassador of Canada in Cameroos could tell us that he saw with his own eyes in Africa, in those new countries with inherited borders, how sports contributed to create a unity which was felt impossible to achieve among tribal populations.