

Adjournment Debate

business is to upgrade the railroad system and the roadbed in western Canada so that grain can effectively be moved. Mr. Speaker, the policy and the service of the railroad leaves something to be desired. I am not referring only to the movement of grain. You pick up the phone in Saskatoon when you want to send a telegram, and do you know, Mr. Speaker, that in a city with a population of 160,000 the guy or the girl who answers will say, "If it is a case of emergency, phone Winnipeg to send the telegram." That is the kind of service we are getting in the city of Saskatoon in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Ten o'clock.

Mr. Gleave: I will tell you the rest of the story tomorrow.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*English*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

SPORTS—ESTABLISHMENT OF CAMPS TO TRAIN ATHLETES FOR OLYMPICS—SUGGESTED USE OF ABANDONED CANADIAN FORCES BASE AT CLINTON, ONTARIO

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak further to the question directed to the acting minister of national health and welfare on March 21 as reported in *Hansard* at page 731. I should like to bring it to the attention of the ministry that when consideration was being given to the closure of Canadian forces bases in 1969, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said at that time that it was conceivable that in some areas closure would not have the significant consequences about which the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. MacLean), I believe it was, was concerned. He went on:

● (2200)

But in cases where there would be significant hardship, as the hon. member says, I can give an undertaking that the government would not proceed with the closure without having considered alternative ways of alleviating that hardship.

It was also suggested by the hon. member for Malpeque that what he had in mind was such areas. In another answer the Prime Minister said:

If that is the case, we would give the type of consideration which the hon. member is suggesting before making any announcement of such closures. We do realize that some bases are not economic units and if any such bases were closed in less developed parts of Canada we hope that they would be linked to some other action by the government to ensure that growth centres spring up in the areas where closure is contemplated.

The area I am speaking about tonight is just such a slow-growth area which was greatly affected by the closure of the Canadian force base at Clinton. I should also

[Mr. Gleave.]

like to bring to the attention of the minister some of the facilities that are located at that base. There is accommodation that would practically meet the required needs for living quarters. There are at least 500 rooms available for living accommodation. There are two up to date mess halls at least 200 can be fed at one sitting in each.

There is a tremendous gymnasium of some 20,000 square feet, a swimming pool with adequate changing rooms, and an artificial ice arena available on the same location with year-round ice facilities. There is a wonderful curling rink with all facilities, an indoor and an outdoor 25-yard rifle range, an eight-lane bowling alley and a reasonable amount of housing in the area for families. The base is also within ten miles of excellent sailing facilities on Lake Huron, the cleanest of the Great Lakes. There are also seven golf courses within a 20-mile radius and excellent cross-country skiing facilities in the area. Besides this there are seven or eight other arenas within a 20-mile radius and a 50-acre development area for track and field facilities in the same area as the accommodation. It seems to me that too often there is a tendency to have facilities such as for Olympic athletic training in larger centres rather than smaller centres where more emphasis might be placed on the task at hand.

The present proprietors of this base, the present owners are prepared to finance any necessary changes to suit what is needed for Olympic training provided an adequate contract arrangement is set up. The Ontario Development Corporation has provided the only assistance to date in an endeavour to establish some businesses operating there at the present time. The proprietors have, since purchasing the base, been very active in pursuing uses for the facilities to benefit the surrounding area and also Canada as a whole. In this regard they have been very responsible. I also have a book that outlines all the facilities at the base and I should be glad to pass it on to the minister.

I also recognize that when the minister said on March 17, I believe it was, that Canadian athletes training for the 1976 Montreal Olympics may have use of a national multi-sport training camp before year's end, he also said that the training camp idea is being given serious consideration by the co-ordinating committee of Game Plan '76. I trust that the minister's representative here this evening will not hide behind this fact. He also said that this was a committee made up of delegates from Sport Canada, the Canada Olympic Association, the Canadian Trust and the provinces.

I wish to advise the ministry that I will have letters going forward to these people tomorrow, and I hope I will get the backing of the Department of National Health and Welfare for what I am asking at this time. Also, many members received a letter from the president and commissioner-general of the Montreal Olympic Games dated December 18, 1972, expressing best wishes and asking for co-operation of all members and leaders in the Canadian community. I replied thanking him for his wishes and asking for his co-operation. I assured him of my co-operation. I mentioned the facilities at the former Canadian forces base at Clinton and asked for his co-operation in recommending to the federal government that it give an undertaking, in respect of providing facilities, to look at this space and in recommendations to the government that