

*Olympic 1976 Act*

Has there been any example of the Mayor of Montreal reporting to the International Olympic Committee and being criticized by the Canadian public on the way he discharged his mandate? No, Madam Speaker. However, other contingent aspects of the Olympic Games have been continuously questioned month after month, week after week. As recently as Wednesday of last week, the Mayor of Montreal and the President of COJO appeared before the Quebec Municipal Affairs Commission. There was much talk about the delay. It was demonstrated that, since last January, the delay has reached 11 weeks. The contractors in charge of the project clearly showed that they had made up for a five weeks' delay, that, therefore they were only six weeks behind and that, in the short period of time which was left, it was certainly possible for them to make up for five weeks.

The evidence of it has been shown, hon. members opposite were present at the sitting of the Quebec Parliamentary Commission, every member of the commission had the opportunity to ask bluntly what were the causes of the delay, which factors had come into play to alter the original estimates. In spite of all this skepticism and of this negative attitude, the Olympic Games are on their way to success. I am sorry, I am not the one who says so, but the general public is. Let us consider the success of the Olympic Lottery, let us consider the way private business reacted at the grant of licences and contracts by COJO.

On September 24, 1974, the preliminary report on franchise or license sales and contracts showed returns of \$11 million to COJO. Original estimates amounted to \$3.5 million. Today, Madam Speaker, the sale of franchises and licenses will bring more than \$30 million to COJO. Is it to be believed that the Canadian public and private markets are dead set against the Games when the Olympic Lottery, the licenses and business contracts of COJO are selling so well? Indeed, the revenue anticipated is ten times higher than that expected initially.

Of course, it is precisely the silver coins that have prompted us today to reconsider Bill C-63. However, Madam Speaker, members of the House, the city of Montreal and COJO are not responsible for the difficulties experienced by the silver coin program. The sales of Canadian coins on the Canadian market are up to expectations. It is in countries faced with special economic conditions, such as Japan and the United States, that the sales have not been as high as expected. We have before us today a bill which will allow COJO and the Postmaster General (Mr. Mackasey) to mint gold coins. Madam Speaker, the purpose of this bill is precisely in response to the enthusiasm of the Canadian public towards the Olympic Games. This is not a bill we are imposing on COJO. It is a bill which the international community is calling for, if COJO is to achieve its objectives.

Madam Speaker, the hearings of the parliamentary committee which met this week in Quebec City ended with a remark which I feel bears repeating here, and I shall conclude with this. It was suggested in this parliamentary committee, especially by the opposition, that the federal government should share in the Games deficit. Madam Speaker, I suggest to my hon. colleagues on both sides that the contribution of the federal government and the Canadian public to the success of the Games has been

[Mr. Joyal.]

tremendous. Over \$130 million will be spent by some 30 federal departments and agencies. I feel that the people in the province of Quebec and the City of Montreal should make an additional effort. The federal government is not the only one that has to make an extra effort.

From the very beginning, the federal government has shown its enthusiasm for the Olympics. If it had not adopted these self-financing programs, the games would never have taken place in Canada. The self-financing formula will also make it possible for competitions to take place in Canada in 1978. The government has always shown it was very anxious to meet objectives in which Canada's reputation was at stake. Hon. members who have had occasion to travel outside the country are always asked the following question: Will the Olympic Games be ready on time? Will they be as well prepared as most of the publicity has made us believe?

In my opinion, Madam Speaker, at the present stage of this legislation we have a heavy individual burden to bear, that of re-establishing the credibility of Parliament towards the games and the responsibility of the same Parliament not to level any kind of criticism in this regard without having read newspapers or the debates of other provincial assemblies in this country.

Had the amendments proposed by the official opposition proven truly essential, the Postmaster General would have been very open to receiving any such amendment. In my opinion, Madam Speaker, the way the Postmaster General behaved throughout the study of this bill deserves our total support. I am grateful to him for having shown so much understanding and tactfulness so as to enable Canada to be proud of its performance in 1976.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, I should like to make a few comments on this bill.

[English]

This bill constitutes just a small part of the epic relating to the Olympics. COJO, the committee responsible for administering and financing the games, is faced with a very massive deficit calculated to be in the area of \$250 million to \$300 million or possibly more. This bill will enable COJO to reduce that deficit a little. However, COJO and those who have to pick up the tab will be faced with a very massive deficit even with the additional revenue provided by this bill.

[Translation]

My colleagues have tried to improve this bill. They have made valuable suggestions to eliminate some serious shortcomings in this bill, but the government did not agree with their suggestions.

[English]

I think the Postmaster General (Mr. Mackasey) has had a very sincere desire to see the bill complete all stages and become law despite differences of opinion about the merits of certain of its provisions. I must say, however, I have the impression that a number of members of the government would have been quite happy to have found some excuse to leave the bill hanging in the air. That would give them an opportunity to create the impression in some parts of the country that the official opposition is in some way responsible for the massive deficit that the Olympic