

[Translation]

**Mr. Choquette:** I wish to thank the hon. member for Verdun (Mr. Mackasey) for the generous compliments he paid me.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I recognize the hon. member for Trois-Rivières.

● (1:10 a.m.)

SPORT—PEE-WEES—REFUSAL TO AUTHORIZE  
TRIP TO EUROPE

**Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières):** Mr. Speaker, at the risk of being out of order, I would like to say first of all how shocked I was at seeing all Conservatives help in wasting the time of the house a while ago and then object to our taking seven minutes.

I shall state my case briefly. What is involved in the question I wish to raise? Two pee-wee hockey teams, in the 10-12 age group, were selected by the Montreal Expo to make a tour in Europe. Then, what is the problem? Well, the problem is that they cannot get on the ice in Europe without the authorization of the C.A.H.A. and of the Q.P.H.A. Now, what we ask is that the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Winters), who is responsible for Expo, and perhaps the commissioner general of Expo talk some sense into the manager of that monopoly, of that trust which goes by the name of C.A.H.A., which so often has been a cause for complaints here, in the House of Commons.

When I make this request, Mr. Speaker, I am in good company, since I have the support of the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte) and of the hon. member for Saint-Henri (Mr. Lessard). I am also supported by the mayors of Ville LaSalle, Cap-de-la-Madeliene, Trois-Rivières and Montreal; I have in my hand the documents referring to those matters and I also have the material submitted by the Expo commission which endorses this tour.

What is the excuse alleged to prevent that tour? Trivial, childlike, frivolous, even false reasons have been given in many cases.

They say, for instance, that there is a breach of the rules under which the authorization for such a tour must be requested. We requested it and it is refused to us. We are told that the teams are not permitted to go and play against European teams; they are not going to play against European teams, they are going to play one against the other. One will represent Expo and the other the centennial commission.

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They say that the C.A.H.A. cannot vote against its own rules; we are going to prove to them that it has done so 15 times. Then, it is stupid to think that the men are made to serve the rules. I would rather think that the rules are made to serve the men and that there are some exceptional cases.

They say that there is a rule which forbids the young people to go and play outside the province, outside the country. That is true and we agree to it; we understand the desirability of such attitude. However, we say that on many occasions the C.A.H.A. made exceptions and we feel that Expo '67 and the centennial are exceptional cases.

It is said that those young people run the risk of falling ill if they go to Europe. They will be accompanied by their parents; they will also be accompanied by serious people such as Mr. Jacques Plante, some mayors and city councillors. They will get the required vaccinations before they leave. We could mention the case of 25 young people of the same age going to Europe with their parents, to study, and who are not any the worse for it. They are not going to China or Japan; they are going to England, France, Belgium, Germany.

It is said that some industries would endorse or support the venture for advertising purposes; that is not true. It is said that they are free to go if they want to. Yes, but what is not said is that afterwards they will be forbidden to play in organized hockey for many years because there is a trust, a monopoly called the C.A.H.A. which prevents them from going.

It is said that the C.A.H.A. is afraid of being held responsible. Those who sponsor that trip are taking all the insurance necessary and are ready to sign all the documents needed to release the C.A.H.A.

Now, those who are organizing the trip are not asking anyone for money. They will put up \$20,000 to finance it. All they are asking for is to be left alone, to be allowed to advertise Expo, nothing else.

It is suggested that the Physical Fitness Council objects to such things. We understand that, because, as a rule, it is not the policy to allow those young people to go and play abroad. We feel that in view of the precautionary measures taken in the present case and due mainly to the extraordinary event called Expo '67, they should be allowed to go.

Mr. Speaker, we are only asking—and it is not the first time we do so in the house—that