

that I learned in a one-room public school, where an old country Englishman had settled, was cricket and I never had the time or leisure to carry on that game in my adult days.

I have always had a tremendous interest in physical well-being and it was because of that interest that my administration brought in the Fitness and Amateur Sports Act.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Through this act, \$5 million was made available to encourage amateur athletics in the country and also to encourage physical fitness on the part of our citizens. Indeed, I sometimes wonder why it has been said that Canadians as a whole have not that level of physical fitness which is common to many other countries. We endeavoured to rectify that by bringing in the legislation in question which all of us hoped would bring about greater athletic victories for Canada.

I was at the Olympic games in Berlin in 1936, and I was very much discouraged by the fact that only one gold medal came to Canada, won by Mr. Amyot of Ottawa in the canoe race. In the intervening years there has been criticism, often ill-timed and ill-considered, over the fact that Canada has not won the number of athletic awards that it should, having regard to its population. Those who make that kind of criticism do so without a knowledge of the degree to which athletics in Communist countries has become a way of life and the basis for prestige. I hope we never get into that category.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I do feel, as the hon. member with his distinguished athletic record, that out of these things may well come an inspiration to the young men and women, the youth of our country that will pay dividends in the years ahead.

What suggestions do I have to offer? There are many. One is to assure the people of Canada that they are not going to have to pick up tens of millions of dollars of an indebtedness at the end, and that the accounts of the committee should each year be subject to audit by the Auditor General of Canada. That would keep down the kind of expenditure that took place too often in connection with Expo when the sky was the limit. It would also assure that some proper return would be secured for expenditures. Then, I think the committee should be required to report yearly to parliament, setting out its financial position. Next, the Olympics are a Canadian project to be situated in Quebec. The incorporation of the Olympic Committee has established it as a limited company in the province of Quebec. Personally, I think it should be a company incorporated by the government of Canada under letters patent, otherwise the various provinces can raise objection to the fact that a provincial company comes into their province to carry on certain activities and does not have that right. If a company incorporated in the province of Saskatchewan endeavours to come into the province of Quebec, Ontario or any other province, it finds itself in a very difficult position. In all seriousness, I suggest that to make this a great national undertaking, the incorporation should be national.

Olympic Bill

There are other suggestions that I could make and may make when we come to committee. I want this venture to be a success.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: We dare not fail. On the other hand, and I say this with the greatest sincerity, it will not be a success unless Canadians as a whole believe that at the end of the road they will not be called upon to pay taxes to meet large deficits. The hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) asked why? Those who pay have a right to a say and they want that say. I am enthusiastic about what has been done. I have seen the preparations from the beginning and I am sure the hon. member for Joliette, with all the interest he has, has not been over the grounds. I went there and I suggest to him that if he can get the mayor to be his car driver and guide, he will learn a lot more than he will by being in Joliette and looking from a distance.

Mr. Speaker, there is hope yet—I am beginning to see a sign of redemption. I hope that in this House we will give this vast undertaking our support.

Mr. Prud'homme: Excellent!

Mr. Diefenbaker: When I make these suggestions I do it is because I want it to be a success. The President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) in his presentation was factual and objective. I have tried to be the same.

Mr. Prud'homme: Excellent!

Mr. Roy (Laval): Great speech!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1230)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I will not hide the fact that it is with much pleasure that I take part in this debate on the financing of the 1976 Summer Olympic Games.

I think the government has made a wise decision in introducing this bill. I might perhaps blame it for not doing it sooner, but considering the latest international official decisions, it is not too late to introduce this bill. To the extent that Canadians will be prompted by a national olympiadic spirit, we can achieve the success anticipated by those who believe in the twenty-first Olympiad.

I listened very carefully to several speeches delivered on the financing of the 1976 Olympic Games. The bill is aimed only at meeting the needs of the Olympic Corporation, that is, it deals with the methods of financing, the coins, commemorative stamps and lotteries, which are of a money-raising nature. Will that be sufficient? That is another matter. On the one hand, the economists who defend the organizing committee's position claim that it will, while on the other hand, the government experts claim the reverse.

Nevertheless, it is astonishing to note that the government, in the light of ostensibly serious analyses, admits that there might be a deficit, and then agrees to participate anyway. I think that this shows weakness on the government's part. If it is sure there will be a deficit, if it