

and I do not think that an hon. member in this House should be prevented from substantiating his argument.

The hon. member for Matane.

**Mr. De Bané:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Quebec premier wrote to the leader of the Canadian government telling him that COJO had given the provincial government the assurance that it would balance its budget. I should like such assurance to be made public, because an analysis of the federal Treasury Board document that was tabled by the Prime Minister, will show that a deficit of at least \$172 million is foreseen. Such is the conclusion of the long study conducted by the Treasury Board and tabled in the House; it reveals that the deficit will be at least \$172 million and that the revenue from the Games that will be held for two weeks in Montreal in 1976 and that will cause an expenditure of about \$310 million will amount at the most to \$18 million.

Mr. Speaker, to govern is to choose, to make choices. The same goes for the government as for individuals and families; our financial resources are limited. The degree of civilization of a given society is judged by the choices it makes, by the priorities it sets. Now, when we look at the problems of the city of Montreal, at those which are now faced by the province of Quebec, and that we find nothing better to do than to ignore the problems of the people to launch forth on a project which the Treasury Board specialists have seen fit to describe as a major financial disaster, while thousands of people live in poverty, because they say we cannot afford to do more and that we are going to undertake a project of this type, I say that a society which defines its priorities in such a way is a sick society. Mr. Speaker, I will quote a few paragraphs from a document published by the Regional Economic Expansion Department, in April 1973, barely two months ago. For example, on page 36, and this is a governmental publication:

● (1720)

—in Montreal, in 1971, more than 24,000 units were without running water—

—24,000 units were without running water in Montreal, compared with only 6,000 in Toronto,—

—and 16,395 units had neither bath nor shower.

I will come back later to this publication of the government on the problems of Montreal. Mr. Speaker, the financial resources of the population—

**Mr. Roy (Laval):** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** The hon. member for Laval on a point of order.

**Mr. Roy (Laval):** Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the hon. member for Matane is again engaging in politicking at the expense of the Canadian athletes. If we refer to the purpose of the bill—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please.

**Mr. Roy (Laval):** Mr. Speaker, Bill C-196 provides, and I quote:

—for the issue for circulation in Canada of Olympic commemora-

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tive coins and for the manufacture and sale of Olympic commemorative stamps and postal related products;

It seems that the hon. member questions the existence of the Olympic Games of 1976 on account of the situation that he finds disastrous in Montreal. It seems to me that he should keep to the subject matter of the bill.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. The point of order raised by the hon. member is valid in that the hon. member is trying to bring this debate to the subject now before us and which is a legislation aiming at making available to the City of Montreal some means of financing the Olympic Games.

Earlier, on a similar point of order by the hon. member for Bonaventure-Îles de la Madeleine (Mr. Béchard), the Chair wanted to give the hon. member for Matane the required freedom in order that he might complete his comments regarding his decision not to support the bill, but a second point of order would perhaps be for me an opportunity to invite the hon. member for Matane to try and stick closely to the bill now before the House. I think indeed that he may use this debate to consider this whole matter of social security and the needs of the Canadian people. Like me, he knows that the decision concerning the organization of the Olympic Games is neither that of this House nor the government. The legislation now before us aims specifically at providing means of financing, and the hon. member should, as soon as possible, get back to the subject of this debate on means of financing which are offered to the Olympic Games Organization without in any way restricting his argument to this sole consideration. Nevertheless, I think that by tackling the whole problem of social security and the needs of the people, he is straying too far from the object of the bill now before the House.

[*English*]

**Mr. Harney:** I rise on the same point of order, Mr. Speaker. As a member of this House listening to the debate now going on, I must say that we speak in this House not only for the sake of hearing ourselves talk but also in the hope that other members are listening to what we say. Surely the point of debate is to attempt to convince others that our point of view should carry. Certainly, I found the proposals, statements and details in the presentation of the hon. member for Matane edifying.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. First of all, the Chair has already rendered a decision on the point of order. It was more an invitation than a restriction and invited the hon. member to try to confine his remarks to the bill in front of the House at the present time. The Chair does not intend to prevent any hon. member from giving reasons why he wishes to oppose or to vote for the bill. But to allow a member to bring into the debate the whole question of social security in Canada, and expand on it by giving statistics as to the needs of the population, or to allow a member to refer, say, to the national defence budget and to say money is spent also in that field, is going a little too far.

As I said, the Chair does not wish to prevent anyone from expressing an opinion on whether he supports a piece of legislation or does not, but the Chair does have some responsibility for the operation of the House and for