

*Adjournment Debate*

from various levels of Government. I also have some reservations about the appropriateness of putting aside a substantial number of prime seats for corporate sponsors. It seems to me that corporate sponsorships are undertaken for the commercial advantage of the corporations in question. There is ample financial reward for the sponsors without having to pay them off with an inside track to the best seating. It also begs the question as to the role of corporate sponsors in amateur sporting activities and whether or not the price we have to pay is too high for the benefits received.

I recognize that since this matter was raised in October there have been steps taken to lessen the impact somewhat. Reductions in the amount of tickets requested by insiders and the recent agreement to extend the seating capacity of the Saddledome will certainly help. However, we still have no firm commitment either from OCO or the Minister that the most popular events, the opening and closing ceremonies, figure skating and speed skating events, as well as the hockey finals, will be available to the general public in the same proportion as all other events.

The Minister took great pains to say that 75 per cent of all tickets were available to ordinary Canadians. We know full well that a much smaller percentage, if any, are available for the gold medal finals of those major events. We want to know when the people of Calgary in particular, and Canadians in general, will get these commitments. What about the federal Government's request for tickets? Has it been reduced, following the lead of other levels of Government, to ensure that as many seats as possible will be available to the general public for prime events?

These concerns surrounding ticketing are only the tip of the iceberg. We also have many concerns about other aspects of the organization of the Olympics. We are concerned, for example, about the housing for athletes and officials and the way in which that housing is being provided. We are also concerned about the availability of hotel space and whether or not those same insiders who snapped up the best seats have also snapped up the best available hotel space. We are concerned about financing and just how much public money is actually being spent, both directly and indirectly, for the Olympics. We have environmental concerns about the Mount Allan ski facility. We are concerned about the treatment of the Lubicon Lake Indian Band. The list goes on.

In summary, we in the NDP want to ensure that the 1988 Winter Olympics are a success and accessible to all Canadians, and that it does not follow the example set in Montreal. Vague assurances by the Minister are not enough. We need commitments and we need them now.

[*Translation*]

**Mrs. Monique Tardif (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) (Mr. Jelinek) was quite clear when he replied to the question he had been asked on this

subject last October 28. Mr. Speaker, I quote the words of the Minister:

I will stay on top of the issue and make certain that the Canadian public, and indeed the public at large, are treated fairly and equitably.

After this exchange in the House the Minister did get in touch and raised the matter with Frank King, the president of the organizing committee in Calgary.

The Minister stressed the fact that he and the federal Government wanted to make sure that as many events as possible will be open to the public, to the extent of 75 per cent. For your information, Mr. Speaker, the comparable figure at the Los Angeles Olympics was 74 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to add that, in answer to the same question, the Minister had suggested that it might be possible to increase the number of seats in the Saddledome.

It is my pleasure to inform you that this suggestion was accepted as recently as a few weeks ago and that the magnificent stadium will be equipped with 2,600 additional seats.

● (1815)

Thanks to this increased capacity, 91,000 additional tickets will be available for ice skating and hockey competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to emphasize the fact that, as a result of the Minister's suggestion and the co-operation of the city of Calgary and the 1988 Olympic Games Organizaing Committee, this problem was solved.

Finally, I wish to say that these Olympic Games will be the best the world has ever known. We should all fell proud and start promoting our Olympic Games and athletes instead of taking a negative attitude such as Members of the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party want to do.

In my own riding, I can tell you that young Canadians are anxious to take part in these games and will make the necessary sacrifices to achieve this.

CANADA POST CORPORATION—ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN POSTAL RATES. (B) INQUIRY WHY ALL PLANS OF CORPORATION NOT REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou):** Mr. Speaker, on November 6, 1986, I asked a question to the Minister responsible for the Canada Post Corporation about the 2 cent increase in first class postage rates from 34 cents to 36 cents. For the moment, this increase is due to come into effect on April 1.

During my brief intervention this evening, I would like to point out the major impact that this increase will have on small businesses. According to the information received from the Canada Post Corporation itself, the small business sector is the major user of the postal service and the burden of this increase will be borne by this sector.

The costs of small businesses are always going up. Once more, they will have to pay more to mail their letters, collect their accounts and make their payments. Mr. Speaker, we all