

### Sports

could introduce our young people to cities and towns about which they know little or nothing. It would be possible to put in the hands of our children Team Canada maps upon which they could trace the team's progress and learn about our country in the process. I know the ability we display in getting young children up in the mornings for hockey practice. I can see this as a very valuable teaching aid in the hands of good teachers. It could be a very considerable force for good.

I believe local people would look forward to a game because their team might be added to the victors' list. It is well known that each team has a good night and a bad night. I suggest each town would look forward to having its name on the national news as having beaten the national team. I know that the citizens of Niagara Falls and Fort Erie would be greatly pleased to have this occur, and I would suggest that in this they would be no different from people in the ridings of other hon. members. The team would be prepared for road trips abroad; they would be prepared for travel, and for strange arenas. They would be trained to play as a team, and they would be in shape. These have been problems in the past for our teams.

The final reason local citizens would support this concept of Team Canada is that it would bring benefit to local sporting activities. Surely, there are few municipalities in the country that could not use half of the net proceeds from a Team Canada game. I know that in Niagara riding arenas are needed, soccer fields are needed, baseball fields are needed, and a host of other facilities are required to provide recreation of a positive nature for our children. I expect that municipalities in other ridings across the country are in a similar situation.

Team Canada coming to play in a local arena would be a positive way of sharing in our national team's development, while at the same time contributing to local activities in a manner whereby something is received in return. Since this suggested venture involves the expenditure of public funds it is presented as a resolution, asking the government to give consideration to establishing a Team Canada rather than actually establishing it right now. To those who, either as private members or as ministers, are concerned about the expenditure of public funds on such a team, may I say one again that millions of dollars have been spent on cultural ventures which are of benefit only to the few, and some of which have no hope of ever being self-sustaining. It is my belief that if the government sees fit to adopt this recommendation Team Canada very shortly could be self-supporting.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, may I return to the origin of this resolution. It came during a time when we were united as a nation watching Canadians striving to win for Canada. It came from Canadians who were concerned that we be able to field a team of ability in the future. If adopted by the House, and acted upon by the government, we can not only produce such a team but have it perform a valuable role in strengthening our bonds of fellowship across the country and in aiding local sports activities.

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words in support of the resolution introduced by the hon. member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Hueglin). I am very glad to do so because the resolution takes into account the tremendous influence of hockey in

[Mr. Hueglin.]

Canada, not only as a sport but as an activity that provides a common denominator of Canadian interest across the nation, and because the resolution also indicates the hon. member's recognition of the fact that public as well as private enterprise is a very logical ingredient in this field of endeavour.

It was last year in this place, noting across Canada the interest in hockey and that all the populated regions except those in the Atlantic area had major league public interest in hockey, that I proposed consideration be given to providing federal funds which, coupled with provincial and civic money, would make financially possible what is desirable, namely, the extension of major league hockey into the Maritimes. All across the nation, with the advent of T.V., hockey Canadians have something in common. We all relate in watching these games. But the people in the Maritimes are left out. They are not lacking in athletes or interest in hockey. However, they are lacking in one centre of population big enough to launch and maintain a major league hockey team.

A few years ago every man, woman and child in the country, all 22 million of us, contributed approximately \$2.20 each to building the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, a monument to culture in Canada. I have nothing against that, Mr. Speaker. Yet the National Arts Centre probably plays a part in the lives of a minority of the adult population of the country. Relatively few Canadians will ever get a chance to visit the centre. But together we provided it. I wonder if, in the same spirit of co-operation, we could get together to provide covered stadia where they are needed for the promotion of hockey in Canada. Would this not be a worthwhile effort on our part to benefit Canadians? As the resolution before us indicates, athletics, sports, and particularly hockey provide a facet of Canadian culture, one which in my view should be encouraged.

The hon. member's resolution for a tax aid for Team Canada would also do as I have proposed, and I repeat the federal government should take the lead in promoting and aiding the establishment of major league hockey in the Maritimes, in a centre like Halifax. This would give Canadians from Atlantic to Pacific a common denominator of interest. Mr. Speaker, we do not have too many things in common in this country. Here, in what this resolution proposes, is something which, if we promote it, can have that effect, can be good for athletics, for sport and for national unity.

**Mr. Jim Fleming (York West):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing and allowing me to speak on this resolution, which I am sure has the support of most members of this House and most Canadians, with the exception of a select few, particularly those in a position of power within professional hockey, who might not support it. However, if I can talk about the resolution for the next few minutes, we may find that there are some problems involved that might jeopardize its success, problems which I think in all honesty should be brought forward. I probably would not be speaking on this resolution were it not for the absence of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Cafik), who in fact is in another arena today trying to draw together his own team, which I understand is not salaried and whose expenses are not tax deductible. Of course, when I