

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mackasey: Finally, in order to protect people who buy either of the coins, we are limiting the quantity to approximately one million. We do not want to keep producing, producing, producing, simply to raise revenue for COJO. We have to weigh our responsibility of helping COJO with the greater responsibility of maintaining the integrity of Canadian coinage. I think this is more important.

Mr. Grafftey: Hogwash.

Mr. Mackasey: That is exactly what we are doing, Mr. Speaker. The amendments are unacceptable for only one reason—that we cannot anticipate with certainty the price of the gold until we are ready to use it. We have to pay interest on the 16 tons of gold that we need to begin. We do not want to buy the gold until the last minute in order to avoid that interest. We will buy the gold at market price as it appears at the appropriate moment in the English market, at some time in the future to be determined by the Department of Finance, when we ask for the gold from the Bank of Canada.

If we are going to be skeptical about the quality of the gold coins we will have a hard time selling the gold coins because members have prejudged it without seeing them. This will create more skepticism among people who otherwise may want to buy them.

Mr. Grafftey: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mackasey: The hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi had his opportunity to make his annual speech. I wish he would just consider that a great feat until some time in the future—about seven years from now.

The other part of the bill deals with an area that quite properly concerns the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley. He is a good member and one who knows more—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mackasey: Contrary to what the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi might think, I have never hesitated to say in public, on television and on radio, in his presence and in his absence, that he is dedicated to the Olympic Games, and more than any member of the House can understand what they are all about. I do not question his right to ask the type of questions he has asked. The only difference of opinion I have had with him is on the occasion and the forum. All I am doing is bringing in an amendment to a bill, which is hardly the occasion to ask the questions which dominated report stage the other evening when we had been all through them at committee stage and second reading. Had we stuck to the bill we would have been through with it.

The trademark or copyright section of the bill is needed as much as the coins. That is the reason why I did not accept his kind offer the other day under Standing Order 43. I do not know too much about parliamentary procedure, but I know if I had accepted that I would have been wiping out part of the bill.

We need this section to protect, with the minimum of fuss, the various Olympic symbols that will provide about \$30 million or \$40 million in royalties to COJO, in the same way as we did in Expo year. It is so designed that it

Olympic 1976 Act

will not hurt anybody who presently, by accident or intentionally, happens to have that symbol on an item he manufactures. What it will do is give us more opportunity to prevent goods now flowing into Canada—from the Far East if you like—bearing the Olympic symbol, or in some cases imitation stamps, the key chains and all the rest of it. Any legitimate manufacturer who was using the Olympic symbol prior to first reading of this bill can continue to do so as long as the use is limited to a particular item and not extended to items he does not normally produce.

What the bill will do is free COJO from having to spend time, money, and effort on the normal protection of copyright in the courts. They would have to list every item we want copyrighted, and the trade mark. Before that would happen the Olympics would be over and people would have taken advantage of the court cases and delays in order to use the Olympic symbol which, after all, has some value only because COJO is staging the games.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I can only say that I have had the utmost co-operation from the opposition. That does not mean to say I have to accept the amendments they put forward in good faith and which were meant to do certain things to protect the value of the coins.

I will repeat the promise I made that before one coin is sold, people will know the quantity of gold in that coin, and at no time will that quantity change regardless of whether the cost of gold goes up or down. This is because we do not know today what the price of gold will be next spring when the coins come on-stream. A design must be chosen, machinery put in place, and marketing arranged and all the other things that go with the successful sale of gold coins. Every day is very important to us.

If the opposition can justifiably make a case that we should have come forward sooner, I am not arguing that. We thought it best to make a market survey before we introduced the bill. On the basis of that survey and appealing to the two chosen markets, one being Canadians who buy the coins to celebrate the Olympics and the other being those whose hobby it is to collect coins—I think by that happy ratio of two-sevenths and five-sevenths we will get approximately \$15 million or \$20 million for COJO. We do not anticipate any more, and certainly we will not be able to eliminate the deficit through the gold coins. The program was never intended for that. We have an obligation to do all we can to help the Olympics, however, provided we do so in a legitimate manner.

● (1530)

Mr. Paposki: Mr. Speaker, before the Postmaster General (Mr. Mackasey) resumes his seat, may I ask him a further question. May I have the assurance of the Postmaster General and the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien) that the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton in 1978 will be accorded the same preferential treatment being accorded the Montreal games? Also, will we be allowed to mint one gold coin to raise funds for our national function in 1978, and will the Postmaster General direct his department to produce a stamp, or series of stamps, commemorating the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton? I ask for the production of these stamps to be placed high on the list of priorities.