

Olympic Bill

lowed this idea in the past, that first must come bread, housing, sewers and full employment, we would never have had the creation of the seven wonders of the world and we in Quebec would be denied the beauty and majesty of the churches and cathedrals that grace and give dignity to almost every village in the province.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Arrol: If in the future we were to wait until all social problems were solved before the creation of a non-utilitarian structure or a spectacular of some kind, we would at best evolve into a dull gray society of uniformity without the excitement of creativity and adventure. Money spent on the Olympic games has financial value for all of us. As thousands of people come to Canada for the adventure of the Olympics, then every gallon of gas purchased will mean that half the price will be a donation to us. A bottle of liquor at \$6 means about \$5 to the Canadian public. All this in addition to the stimulation of the retail industry, the tourist industry, employment and then the returns in future years as Canada increasingly becomes part of the world consciousness.

There will be worldwide attention on Canada, not just on Montreal. Since Expo, up to and including the present, Canada has become a place to talk about. For the first time, journalists and communications people from all around the world discovered Canada and then went west to take in the beauty of the Rockies and the Pacific. Since the time of Expo, it is rarely that you pick up a publication from anywhere in the world in which there is not praise for Canada in the form of photographs or travelogues.

So, Mr. Speaker, for all good reasons, the Montreal Olympics should be supported.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure and an honour for me to participate in this debate, and especially to say that we approve of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, we do not approve of debts, but under our present system, we cannot but run deep into indebtedness to get things done. If we did not resort to indebtedness, nothing would be done, and since we are active men, since we are progressive citizens who want to get things done, we must resolve to contract debts, as there is no other way at present.

The Montreal Olympic Games will certainly incur a deficit as many other members have already said, and we are worried about such a deficit. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that if war were to break out tomorrow morning, not a single member in this House would say: There will be no war for us because we would incur a deficit. We will not assume such expenditures because we will get into debt. They would all say: It is physically possible to wage war; we have men—the most important requirement—we have technicians, engineers, equipment, natural resources. There is nothing then to prevent us from going to war.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I would say the same for the Olympic Games: there is nothing to prevent us from assisting, organizing and promoting the holding of the Olympic

[Mr. Arrol.]

Games. We must, Mr. Speaker, do all we can to ensure that they are held.

It is thus with a feeling of pride that I would like to express my opinion on as important a matter as the Olympic Games, which are to take place in Montreal and in Kingston in 1976, precisely nine years after the Centennial celebrations. We ought to be proud to see our country coming to the fore, through its international activities, thereby achieving an important position which reflects on all Canadians, providing them with opportunities for keeping in contact with friends, relatives and people of several other countries.

In order that these fantastic events may take place and prove beneficial to us, it is normal that we pay our share, according to our capacity, our means, our goodwill and our pride. One should not always merely seek advantages in these international events, without ever assuming the inconveniences. I wish to congratulate the mayor of Montreal, Mr. Jean Drapeau, for the useful work he has performed in obtaining, both for Montreal and Canada, the Olympic Games for 1976, in spite of the competition from other countries. If he appears to have taken this initiative on his own, now that he has succeeded in having our country selected, it is appropriate that all of us should contribute, without restraint, according to our means and possibilities, to the success of these Games.

● (1440)

In principle, Mr. Speaker, we have here in Canada all the potential raw materials, labour, engineering and human resources to achieve that international "operation", without any reservations. Only financing seems to pose problems. Well, I should say not! That is the easiest thing to solve, in the light of all our old and modern methods of financing, if only we will open our eyes to present possibilities. I am sure that if there were a world war, we would already have forged ahead in the great adventure. But because this is concerned with culture, the development of human beings, encouraging the physical and psychological fulfilment of the individual, we really attach too much importance to possible and imaginary difficulties which we may have to face in the execution of the project.

The only real obstacle, Mr. Speaker, would be a lack of money. I say that is a farce. The lack of financing is the least of difficulties when we have material resources, manpower and human capital in the fields of engineering and sports. We have all that in Canada and the whole world can come to our aid and lend us the engineering that we might lack.

Mr. Speaker, in the case of a war, we would see all financial resources automatically offered for everything. At least, let us have the same financial initiatives for the Olympic Games as for local, regional, provincial or national endeavours. We are now giving proof that we can find enough money to underwrite projects which are very helpful, of course, but often also quite questionable.

In the case of the Olympic Games, at this stage of the project, I would even suggest that all financing be simply reduced to the obligations of a sound administration, so that we avoid as much as possible any waste and even plundering of public funds.