

ing a rink and a regional centre of some sort for the Canada Winter Games, 1991.

Could the Leader of the Government in the Senate inform us if these funds will be made available for those games?

It will be almost impossible for the 125,000 Islanders to put forth any great expenditure of funds for that one occasion. Perhaps the leader could tell us now what funds he intends to make available so that I can go back to Prince Edward Island and tell Premier Joe Ghiz what a great fellow the Leader of the Government in the Senate is.

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, all of us rejoice in the selection of Prince Edward Island as the site for the winter games. We are confident that they will be at least as successful as the games that were held a couple of years ago in Cape Breton.

That being said, I should point out that the federal government is already quite substantially committed in a financial way to assisting those games through my colleague, Mr. Charest, the Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport.

Premier Ghiz and I have spoken about whether ACOA funds would be available for the execution of a concept that would be more permanent than, and go beyond, the winter games. This has involved, as the honourable senator may know, some controversy on the Island involving the city of Charlottetown and various other interests.

In any case, my reply to Premier Ghiz and to the honourable senator is that, when all of these matters have been finally sorted out on the Island, the agency will be happy to entertain a proposition from Prince Edward Island in the sense referred to by Premier Ghiz. As usual, he will not be disappointed with the response.

**Senator Bonnell:** We could settle these things this afternoon, if the leader could guarantee a certain amount of money. We could settle this matter today, if the leader could tell us what was available and we could tell him whether we wanted a trade show building with a rink included, or whether we wanted just a rink, or whether we wanted to have that building in the Exhibition Grounds so that it could be used by all Prince Edward Islanders for trade shows, and so forth. So much depends on how much the leader can loosen the purse strings in Ottawa through ACOA or other means.

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, I am waiting precisely for my friends in Prince Edward Island to decide what it is they want to do and to make a proposition. We will consider this with great sympathy and seriousness, as I have told the premier.

• (1440)

### PRIVATE BILL

#### REGIONAL VICAR FOR CANADA OF THE PRELATURE OF THE HOLY CROSS AND OPUS DEI—CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE—DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the Twenty-First Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs (Bill S-7, An Act to incorporate the Regional Vicar for Canada of the Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei, with two amendments) presented in the Senate on 25th May, 1988.

**Hon. Joan Neiman:** Honourable senators, Bill S-7, to incorporate the Regional Vicar for Canada of the Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei, was referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee several months ago; as I am sure its sponsor, Senator Bélisle, would say, probably far too many months ago. I wish to express my regret, on behalf of the committee, that it has taken us as long as it has to deal with this bill, but senators will recall that at the same time we were being pressed to deal with Bill C-84 and Bill C-55. The committee felt it was imperative to give government bills higher priority than private bills.

I wish to remind honourable senators that the organization generally known as Opus Dei is described in the bill as "a secular jurisdictional institution of the Roman Catholic Church." The committee heard evidence that Opus Dei has been active in Canada since 1957. It was incorporated as a non-profit organization under Part III of the Quebec Companies Act and has operated that way for some 30 years. In 1982 the organization was constituted as a personal Prelature of the Church under the Church's Apostolic Constitution *Ut Sit*. The committee heard that it was that change in canon law regarding the status of Opus Dei that prompted it to apply for a change in its civil legal structure in Canada.

The corporation sole originated as a common law device in England that was associated with the ecclesiastical offices of the Church of England. By "corporatizing" a church office, property ownership and succession could be dealt with independently of the person who held that office for the time being. Canada adopted the device for occasional use, but in this country a corporation sole may be created only by an act of Parliament or of a legislature.

The "corporation sole" in the religious or non-profit sector has never been provided for in any federal law of general application and is not in general use. However, as part of its historical role of incorporating religious institutions or organizations by private act, the Senate has in the past approved private bills to create corporations sole—for example, the "episcopal corporations" of the Roman Catholic Church and similar entities in other churches. A search of the index of private legislation reveals that 20 corporations sole have been created in this way to date; 15 are Roman Catholic or Ukraini-