

Olympic Bill

Today is June 28, 1973, more than a year after Mr. Trudeau wrote this letter and—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I regret but I have to interrupt the hon. member to point out that the Standing Orders forbid the use of family names of hon. members and, as the parliamentary secretary knows, hon. members should use the name of the electoral district of their colleagues or their title if they are members of the cabinet.

Mr. De Bané: It is over a year since the government leader wrote to Mr. Drapeau to ask him what his plans were concerning housing, since the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation would likely be called upon to finance this project. We are in June and according to the latest information I have, the federal government knows absolutely nothing about the housing program.

In his letter, the Prime Minister said, and I quote:

Let me point out that neither the Organization Committee of the Olympic Games of Montreal nor yourself have made available to us detailed estimates and therefore we have been compelled as Federal government, to make our own estimates of revenues and expenditures . . .

And the Prime Minister continues further:

. . . This analysis worries us all, my colleagues and myself, since we have no information for the time being on the financing of the operation.

On January 20, 1973, the Chairman and Commissioner General of the Games, Mr. Roger Rousseau—

Mr. Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The hon. member for Laval on a point of order.

Mr. Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, when the hon. member for Matane refers to his concern, he says "my colleagues and myself". I would like to record in *Hansard* the fact that I wish he would speak on his own behalf and not for his colleagues.

Mr. De Bané: Mr. Speaker, I will remind the hon. member for Laval that I am quoting a letter of the Prime Minister and I repeat the quotation:

This analysis worries us all, my colleagues and myself—

It is a letter from Mr. Trudeau—excuse me, Mr. Speaker—from the leader of the government and I quote once again from the correspondence tabled in this House by the leader of the government. Mr. Roger Rousseau, Chairman and Commissioner General of the Olympic Games wrote as follows to the Prime Minister:

Abiding by our undertaking to avoid any taxation at any level whatever, the Mayor of Montreal and I have the honour to inform you of the formula considered.

It is one of the three matters dealt with in the bill before us. And Mr. Rousseau thus carried on:

The studies in progress invariably confirm without any reservation that those three courses of revenue—

lottery, coins and stamps

—will be sufficient to finance both budgets (organization and facilities)—

[Mr. De Bané.]

As for Mr. Rousseau's comments, I will bring them up again later.

Three days later, the leader of the government wrote to the Mayor of Montreal and I quote:

All things considered, your budget does not seem to balance; you should incur a deficit of \$100 or \$200 million, excluding any cost increase which could occur by 1976.

To the letter of Mr. Rousseau, a few days earlier, who says: We can balance our budget, the leader of the government answers: According to our federal experts, that is impossible, and he reminds him of the experience with Expo 67, and I quote:

We must also remember that, in the case of the Games which took place elsewhere, the costs were much higher than the initial forecasts, even higher than the evaluations made during the works, without this increase being balanced by a corresponding income increase. And the Prime Minister, in his letter to Mr. Drapeau, states:

That is not the whole problem. The assessment that we have just made of the probable deficit—

Unfortunately, my photostat is not very good; here is the conclusion:

On the basis of the information now available, the federal government—

[English]

Mr. McKinley: You are not supposed to be reading your speech, anyway.

Mr. De Bané: I am quoting a letter from the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to the Mayor of Montreal. The letter, dated January 23, reads:

[Translation]

—the federal government cannot see how the deficit or the services could be financed. Therefore, no responsible and cautious administration would comply with any request made to the federal government concerning financing programs, such as a national lottery or the issue of special olympic coins or stamps, as the General Commissioner suggested in his letters to me dated November 15 and 17, 1972.

On January 31, 1973, a few days later, the Quebec Premier wrote to the Prime Minister saying that the COJO had assured the provincial government that the deficit feared by the federal government would not materialize, and I quote the letter from the Quebec Premier—

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles de la Madeleine): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. The hon. member for Bonaventure-Îles de la Madeleine on a point of order.

Mr. Béchard: Mr. Speaker, we have before us a very specific bill namely Bill C-196. The hon. member for Matane (Mr. De Bané), who said he was against the bill, is now reading to us all the correspondence that was tabled in the House and which is public knowledge.

In order to give him the opportunity to deliver a speech, we can spare him such a reading the more so because all the members have read it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. I believe the Chair should none the less be fair to the hon. member who is trying to explain why he wants or can object to this bill