

Competition—Assistance to enable individuals or groups of individuals to engage in events for the purpose of measuring their performance against others or according to established standards.

Program Planning and Management—Planning of the Fitness and Amateur Sport Program, management of the activities through Recreation Canada and Sport Canada, and the provision of administrative services in the operation of the program.

This is excellent indeed. What wonderful and inspiring objectives and what excellent programs—and all that for \$1 per person, of which 20 cents goes to administrative expenses. It costs \$4.5 million to distribute the grants, contributions, and other transfer payments.

Is it any wonder that we have difficulty winning Olympic medals? Of the contributions to encourage, promote and develop fitness, amateur sport and physical recreation for Canadians, a total of \$1.8 million is allocated for training. For all my constituents in Vaudreuil that works out to less than \$10,000 for the year 1975-76. This is in a constituency where tomorrow just one of the 40 municipalities, the town of Beaconsfield with a population of 21,000, is opening a \$1.5 million recreation and sports complex. The town of Vaudreuil, with a population of approximately 4,000, has just built and opened an arena at a cost of \$200 per person. These are only two examples of what is being done at the local level, and they illustrate the importance attached to amateur sport at that level.

I can already hear the departmental officials howling that I should not mix federal and provincial responsibilities. My answer to that is that if the federal government cannot show leadership and do a better job, then it should get out of the field entirely and not make a halfhearted token effort.

Our top sportsmen and women should be trained to represent their country in international competition, and the promotion, organization and control should be a federal responsibility with a suitable federal budget to assure success.

The provinces fulfil their responsibilities as can be illustrated by a quotation from the Montreal newspaper *La Presse* dated December 4, 1968, some seven years ago. It reads:

[Translation]

For the first Quebec Sport Convention to be held in Montreal from December 5 to 8, the High Commissioner for Youth, Leisure and Sports prepared a working paper that will be made available to all participants.

By its importance, the basic principles it defines and the concrete policy it proposes, that paper constitutes somehow the first Quebec Sport Charter.

For many years, international sport organisations and governments in several countries have been seeking to give sport an orientation likely to meet both the many and various aspirations expressed by those who in close or remote connection keep contact with, participate actively in or organize in their environment, social and sport activities.

Quebec also raised many areas of concern in that respect. In the last few years, bodies identified with community leisure organization, promotion of competition sport activities and overall youth education expressed in their most immediate area worthy opinions about the nature and the meaning of continued government intervention in the area of sport.

And further on it continues:

GOVERNMENT

Sport constitutes a general social fact capable of cultural influence of some importance, capable also of playing at both the individual and

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community levels a recreational role, an educational role, a military role and a role of adaptation to and preparation for active life.

● (1610)

[English]

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) recently attended the official opening of the 1975 Canada Winter Games in Lethbridge, Alberta, where 3,000 young Canadians participated in everything from skiing to table tennis, and from volley ball to judo. Teams from the ten provinces and the two territories marched into the Sportsplex behind their flags. For many of the athletes, particularly those from the two territories, it was the first time for a firsthand look at another part of Canada.

For the people of southern Alberta it was a mammoth effort of more than two years on the part of thousands of volunteers, involving people from the surrounding communities which were the sites of the events.

It will be the same story when the games move to St. John's, Newfoundland, for the summer edition in 1977, and that province's representatives were in Lethbridge picking up all the tips they could. Manitobans were also watching carefully because the next edition of the winter series, in 1979, will be held in their province.

The provinces are certainly doing their part. It would be unjust not to add that the federal government is contributing financially to these activities. However, the question remains, is the assistance just tokenism? Is it really fulfilling the objective of the department, or is it just a small encouragement to the private sector and the provincial and municipal governments to keep up the good work?

I am going to refer for a moment or two to one part of the effort of the department's sport program. On February 1, 1974, the Department of National Health and Welfare issued a news release which stated:

Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde today announced that applications for 1974 grants-in-aid to Canadian student athletes are now being accepted by his department's fitness and amateur sport branch.

The grant-in-aid program, established in 1970, assists Canadian student athletes who wish to pursue their educational programs while continuing to make satisfactory progress in their competitive sports programs.

Excellent! But the same news release says:

The deadline for submission of grants-in-aid applications is February 15, 1974.

I wrote to the minister to ask:

Why did News Release 1974-8 of February 1, 1974, indicate a deadline for submission of February 15, 1974? Is it because the funds are very limited and possibly were already committed?

The minister's reply said in part:

This date is necessary in order that a reasonably complex selection process can be completed preferably by late April. In this way the student athletes will know whether or not they are receiving a grant and can plan their summer programs accordingly.

I suggest simply that any student who was not at the starting gate on February 1 is probably still unaware of the program. Note the six weeks for the departmental officials for their "complex selection process", but only two weeks for the poor student from the date of the news release, for the dissemination of information, consider-