

Olympic Bill

ty that was used during the games. In Montreal over 70 per cent of the facilities to be used are already in existence, so the cost factor has been dramatically reduced. I have in the past urged decentralization of the games to take advantage of existing facilities without having to contend with duplication, in this manner saving countless millions of dollars.

The Olympic committee is studying recommendations such as this but, unfortunately, it appears that such changes will not be possible in time for the 1976 Olympics. Once again this might not have been the case had the government acted in the early stages, and not left this bill until the eleventh hour. Decentralization, however, even on a wide scale may become a reality for future Olympic meets. Such action will further reduce the costs to other nations who wish to bid for subsequent Olympic games. Options or alternatives of this nature are one way of reducing the high cost of staging the Olympic games.

Of prime concern is the apparent variance in the estimates of the income derived from the sale of the coins of the federal authorities and the Olympic committee. The COJO proposal indicates that \$250 million will be raised through the sale of specially minted coins, which represents approximately 80 per cent of the total budget. With the millions of coin collectors throughout the world, and with the variety of coins offered as compared to the limited number offered in Germany, it should be safe to assume that the demand will reach the expectations. Interest is of such a scale that distribution has been virtually assured through banks and commercial organizations throughout the world.

However, Mr. K. O. Grant of the Royal Canadian Mint, who will be working on the Mint's behalf with the proposed Post Office Marketing Board, has outlined a rather vague and indecisive program to ensure that the coins will not circulate. The plan is much the same as that used for the Expo 1967 coin issues. It calls for attractive packaging of the Olympic coins, without any additional charge for the casing. The psychology behind this is to make the packaging as attractive as possible, with the result that the purchaser will not be inclined to use the coin as legal tender. This method is now under study in conjunction with the Mint and the Post Office. Another method being considered is that of packaging the coins in cases that cannot be broken without damaging the contents. These means of keeping the coins out of circulation are being intensively studied, as Mr. Grant maintains that it would be disastrous if the coins were used as legal tender. One possible suggestion for consideration in committee would be to place a premium on these coins, virtually assuring that they will remain as collectors items and will not find their way into circulation.

With regard to objections concerning postal-related products and the failure precisely to define this meaning, it is only natural that concern would be voiced. Once again the government submits for hasty approval a bill that is badly needed, but at the same time is vague in areas where specifics are demanded. It should be an easy task for the Postmaster General's office fully and clearly to define the meaning of "postal-related products" so that this House will know just what it is voting on. I am confident,

[Mr. Jelinek.]

however, that this will not be a difficult problem to overcome, even for the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet).

In so far as the lottery itself is concerned, each province must give its approval before sales can take place in that province. In addition to a percentage designated to offset the cost, namely 10 per cent, an additional 5 per cent is being retained by the province and will be used for the support of amateur sport within that province. It only stands to reason that failure to provide adequate safeguards to the province concerned would mean that that province would not give its authority for distribution, and the intent of the program to raise money would be defeated. One of the main reasons that we have not yet received approval for the lottery from all provinces is that they do not yet have enough information, nor can they be assured that this bill will ever be enacted, once again pointing to the government's failure to act at the early stages and leaving the matter until the last moment.

Certainly there are questions which must be asked and must be raised concerning the Prime Minister's continued statements that no aid will be forthcoming from the federal government. Why does he continue to mislead this House and the Canadian people when, for example, on February 2, in his announcement on the Olympics, he stated that the federal government, through CMHC, could be spending between \$26 million and \$54 million on the Olympic village; that in addition it would cost approximately \$20 million for increased costs for security, customs or immigration; and that the CBC, as host broadcaster, would provide basic television service at a cost of \$25 million, all of which the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) has once again just brought to our attention? But there have been contradictory statements, and I am wondering why the Prime Minister is afraid to be honest by openly admitting that the federal government will be spending significant sums of money for the 1976 Olympics.

The over-riding theme, the over-riding purpose and the over-riding goals will be lost in this shuffle. We must consider the millions upon millions of dollars that will be brought into this country and turned back into the treasury in the form of business and income taxes, and in the form of employment for thousands of Canadians all across this nation. Over the next four years and thereafter our country will be advertised abroad on a scale previously unknown in our history. The value here cannot be measured in terms of dollars and cents but, if it must be, then I personally hesitate to imagine a figure of that magnitude.

● (1610)

The true value, the real value and the real meaning of the Olympics itself lies with the youth of our country and, in fact, the youth of all countries. I do not believe we can put a price on the Olympics, for the Olympics is a state of mind, a state of well being; it is a sense of belonging and a sense of participation. To win a gold medal is the goal of every athlete and the Olympics offer this opportunity. But to bring together the youth of our country, and of all countries, in a spirit of healthy competition is an even greater opportunity.

I have made the view of my party clear. We want the Olympic games in 1976 to be a truly Canadian triumph. In a world as divided as ours, such events as the Olympics,