

cost nothing to the government. I repeat Canadian citizens are paying that money over and above their taxes.

We believe the federal government should announce its willingness to pick up the tab for the olympic deficit. Since the whole country benefits, the whole country must pay. Any other arrangement is unacceptable, because it would put the burden on a fraction only of the Canadian taxpayers, namely Montrealers and Quebecers, whereas Canada as a whole will benefit.

Such has been our position since the Olympic Games were announced, and certainly it is shared by all those who believe the games are the business of all Canadians, in other words the Canadian government.

Let us not forget, Mr. Speaker, that the games will be opened by the chief of state, rather than Quebec's premier or Montreal's mayor. This is another proof that the games are first and foremost the central government's direct responsibility. In that respect, we believe the new lottery announced today by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien) is in no way a federal government initiative to assume their responsibilities, but simply a means of passing the buck to the average citizen who will be facing another tax, albeit voluntary.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is difficult to be delighted, because a lottery is opium to mislead people and falsely raise the expectations of the poor.

[English]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the President of the Treasury Board—and I am happy, in asking it, to see that the President of the Privy Council is here to hear it. In view of the fact that as House leaders we have had difficulty persuading the President of the Privy Council that there is parliamentary time between now and June 30 to deal with certain important matters in which we are interested, may I ask him how he was able to persuade the President of the Privy Council that there is parliamentary time for this matter before June 30?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, it depends on the formula the leaders of all parties would endorse to have a debate on that motion. Substantially, it is the same bill that we had in the past, except that for the next three years, it will be under federal government control and that under the Corporations Act and the Criminal Code, we could create a Crown corporation without having to pass legislation.

However, there are many ways to put forward this project for the approval of the House and I am sure the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp) will have discussions with his counterparts of other parties. We could even proceed by a budget item, if needed, but I would rather submit to the House a motion which would be debated during one day, and then we could have a vote. Or we could accept the suggestion that the opposition leader (Mr. Clark) kindly put to us, that is adopt a bill after all stages in two days.

[English]

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in the event the government does not adopt the suggestion that a bill be introduced, what controls will

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parliament have regarding the allocation of funds after the deficit of the Olympic Games has been met? What provision will there be for parliament to control the disposition of funds coming from a Crown corporation operating a national lottery?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I intend to bring forth regulations, and so on, at a later time. The Crown corporation will be under a minister and there will be an opportunity, under the normal estimates procedure, for members of the House of Commons to examine the operations of that Crown corporation. Because the money will be coming in until 1979 under federal control, this will be an instrument through which the House of Commons can request an annual presentation to an appropriate committee regarding the operations of this lottery.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, if I understood the minister correctly, he is suggesting that the Crown corporation operating the national lottery will operate under regulation. If those regulations are passed by order in council, they can be altered by order in council. I would ask the minister what guarantee parliament would have that no allocation of funds for any objective or purpose set out in the regulations would be subject to change without being referred to parliament. Does the minister think this is the kind of responsibility which ought to be given to the government, or is this the kind of abdication of power which parliament should be asked to accept?

● (1530)

Mr. Chrétien: I think, Mr. Speaker, that the way I am proposing to do it—and this will come to light later, depending on the procedural activities—is that if we have a Crown corporation established by order in council, we propose to make sure that there will be ample control of the spending and operations of this corporation, more than in respect of any other. There will be a minister directly responsible. Five per cent of his budget will be money coming from that Crown corporation, and he will have to justify the operation of that corporation when he defends his own estimates. In that way, members of parliament will have absolute control over the changes, if there are any, in the regulations that will be passed under this order in council.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, I am amused that the minister would suggest he would be prepared to introduce a bill. If we would agree to an extremely limited debate on what, in effect, is the appropriation by the government of Canada of an entirely new revenue source over time, I would ask him and his colleague the government House leader, since they apparently have no objection in principle to the introduction of a bill—which obviously is the proper way to proceed—why they are not prepared to introduce a bill without the condition of some kind of a time-muzzle being placed on parliament when we are discussing a matter of this consequence.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I think one must realize we are in a very difficult time-frame with this operation. There have been many precedents in this House concern-