

mond-Delta (Mr. Reynolds)—Administration of Justice—Reason for parole of Mr. Glen Jansen—Possible restoration of amounts cut from department's budget.

Mr. Loiselle: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. With the leave of the House I should like to revert to routine proceedings in order to present a committee report.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): The House has heard the request of the hon. member. Is it agreed that we revert to motions?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS AND STANDING ORDERS

Second report of Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders, in both official languages—Mr. Loiselle.

[Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

OLYMPIC (1976) ACT

AMENDMENT COVERING ISSUE OF GOLD COINS

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-63, to amend the Olympic (1976) Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, and motion No. 1 (Mr. Stevens).

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a few comments on the amendment to Bill C-63. As a good many hon. members know, I have been a member of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates dealing with the Olympic bills. The first one came in last year.

I have listened with a considerable amount of interest to the remarks made today. Again I repeat that we on this side of the House are certainly in favour of the Olympics, and supported the bill to get it through in the minority parliament against the strong objections and filibustering of the NDP, who did everything they could to squelch that bill. So we certainly cannot be accused of not wanting to support this bill, but we are interested to see that Canadians and parliament get a fair shake on this, and the questions that we ask are open and above board.

I have the highest regard for the Postmaster General (Mr. Mackasey) and for his predecessor who piloted the

Olympic Financing

original bill through. I was unable to be present at the committee meetings last week because of commitments in my riding. I am aware of the fact that the coin sales have fallen down, and that they amount to less than \$100 million. I can also appreciate the fact that the goal of the government is to reach \$250 million in coin sales and that, if it cannot be achieved through the sale of silver coins, a gold coin should be minted and sold. Certainly this is a good suggestion. A great many experts have spoken on the matter but I, as a backbencher, and being certainly no gold expert, am very hesitant about the fact that a gold coin worth \$100 should be issued in two values.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Darling: I cannot understand this. I am wondering if the Postmaster General and his officials would consider three gold coins worth \$25, \$50 and \$100. Then the honour of Canada and our coinage will not be debased.

Previous speakers have mentioned the unsuspecting purchaser of a gold coin being cheated when second grade coins are foisted upon him. We know of the integrity of the Postmaster General and his department, but there are many damn stupid people in the country—the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) can vouch for that—and they are to be found in various provinces. I myself as the reeve of a municipality for a great number of years can recall the numerous times when people who were cheated as a result of their own stupidity came to me.

It is well and good to say *caveat emptor*—let the buyer beware. But I feel that consideration should be given to not having two \$100 coins with a great difference in value. I am one who wants the Olympics to be successful.

● (1710)

I had the privilege, along with a few other members of parliament, of listening to the mayor of Montreal and the commissioner general a week or so ago. They stated that they wanted this new bill through in order to take up the slack in the silver coins, and I certainly agreed with that, but I was not aware at the time that there were to be two different \$100 coins. I know that it has been difficult.

I was one who questioned seriously the previous postmaster general and the then president of the treasury board when they said they were going to raise \$250 million from the sale of coins. I said I thought it was ridiculous to think that they would be able to sell that many. I also questioned the stamp program at the time. The new Postmaster General can check into this, but I asked where in the name of heaven did they get the idea they would raise only \$32 million from the lottery. I said that that was just as crazy because money from the lottery would be coming out of their ears. I told them that they would make much more money than they anticipated. The then president of the treasury board asked if I really believed that, and I indicated that I did, and I think the facts bear it out. It is now over \$100 million.

I will concede that the mayor of Montreal said to us a week or so ago that he did not want the people of Canada to have to dip into their pockets directly. But I am not sure, whether it was the Postmaster General or someone else who stated it, that it will cost Canada about \$140 million for certain things such as security, housing, and so