

games so soon after Expo and the trouble that developed there.

● (1540)

This resentment is not against Montreal or the people of the city of Montreal; to a great extent it is against the way in which the international events which are to take place in the city of Montreal have been managed. Much of the responsibility for that must rest with the provincial government, the city of Montreal and the federal government, all of which have participated equally.

This country is interested in the long overdue amateur sports and fitness program. It has received very little consideration by the Canadian public. We are one of the most unhealthy nations in the world, according to medical reports. I am sure that the Canadian stock is the best in the world. We have been blended over many years into what I consider to be better than average individuals. Yet because of overeating and lack of fitness programs, as well as lack of amateur sports programs, we have developed into very unhealthy individuals. Even during the last war, about 30 per cent of all Canadians who applied for admission to the armed services were rejected because they had suffered at one time from malnutrition or some other dietary defect: they were not healthy people.

So I suggest that the government should face the problem of whether or not we want to support the Olympics. I think the Canadian population does want to support the games. However, I am sure that it will bring no credit to this government if, together with the friends they have on the other side who brag about driving around in Mr. Drapeau's chauffeur-driven car they pass this piece of legislation. This will bring no credit to the Canadian people. We will lend ourselves to the making of a great disaster if we do not face this matter squarely in a frontal attack and determine what our support will be. This suggested use of coinage and stamps is a disgrace.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, this bill proposes certain money-making activities which would endorse the Olympic games with the stamp of the federal government's approval, if I may coin a phrase. I want to concentrate my criticism on three areas of this bill. First, I should like to refer to the following statement made last evening by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury):

COJO decided deliberately to put a stop to the astronomical increases in the cost of the Olympic games since the second world war.

I cannot see how that statement can carry any weight when the games will bring 9,000 athletes to one location at which there will be 250,000 spectators a day for two weeks. Indeed, it might well turn out to be the most costly Olympic games since the second world war. I think that if Canada is really interested in giving the lead in terms of the Olympic games, we should be talking about decentralizing the Olympic games over a period of, say, a year. In the view of many countries there are many financial opportunities, as well as opportunities in the field of sports, to be derived from the Olympic games. It seems to

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me that the concentration of all these resources in one area certainly does not distribute the opportunities to smaller countries, smaller provinces in Canada, and the underprivileged areas.

For example, the previous speaker, the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters), referred to the area from which we come. Certainly we could use some of the facilities that will be concentrated in Montreal and which have been concentrated in other urban centres. For example, track and field facilities are unknown in our neck of the woods. Surely, if we are going to have the Olympic games, the decentralization concept would bring benefits to areas that are underprivileged in this regard. There is also the good will and the sense of community which could be spread around rather than concentrated in one area. If we are really interested in that ideal, we should spread it around and decentralize these games.

The second criticism that I have with respect to this bill was again referred to by the President of the Treasury Board when he spoke last night. I should like to quote his statement from yesterday's *Hansard* as follows:

—I am convinced that all... Canadians, boys or girls, who dream of representing this country in the great international sports arena will have the opportunity of training and of carving the way to becoming a member of the 1976 Canadian Olympic team.

I think that is a lot of unadulterated horsefeathers. It reminds me of the cliché I heard when I first came to North America, which went something like this: Any American boy can become president. Women, Mexican-Americans and Negroes in the United States know that that is a lot of unadulterated horsefeathers. Similarly in Canada, those of us who come from areas such as northern Ontario know that our young people will never have the opportunity to train properly for the 1976 Olympic games. They do not have a snowball's chance in hell of ever having the opportunity to make the Olympic team. It takes years to train athletes, and if we had been really concentrating on preparing a team for the 1976 Olympics, we should have started 15 years ago.

It seems to me that this government has never proposed or promoted the kind of plan that should have been put into effect in Canada for developing what I call the village concept, where each community would be provided with proper training personnel and facilities for involving young people and adults in sports programs. We have never developed this policy or approach to amateur sports in this country for the pure joy of achieving excellence in sports or for the enjoyment of participation, or for any other reason than to provide the world market with professional athletes who participate for a price—and the higher the price, the greater the striving to become professional.

I know from personal experience in working with young children in sports in the great outback of northern Ontario that it takes many years of patience by qualified, trained personnel, as well as proper facilities and good opportunities, for young people to develop interest and skill. Our focus in the area of athletics should be to put into effect what I have called the village program or village concept to develop within each community in Canada a nucleus around which athletic programs can be established.