Supply

the House and a greater percentage of the vote than any other party in Canada. The government is attempting to govern in an organized fashion, not just for the Liberal party, not for the socialist party, not for the Créditistes, but to the best of our ability for all Canadians from Vancouver to Newfoundland.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Don't speak nonsense.

Mr. Whicher: That is why we are here today voting on such great programs as the New Horizons program involving senior citizens, a program that was not even dreamed about when my friends to the left of Mr. Speaker sat in the seats of government some years ago.

Provision is made for amateur sport, which will benefit the youth of this country, not the youth of the United States or of other countries. This money will not be spent on Viet Nam or for sending wheat to India; it will be spent on young Canadians in their teens and on those perhaps as old as 30 or 40 so that we can develop better fitness and amateur sport in Canada. I think such a program is good.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): You should; you have agreed to support it.

Mr. Whicher: The Conservative motion in opposition to vote 45a seeks to reduce to \$1 the \$1 million program of the Department of National Health and Welfare for fitness and amateur sport. This is how much that party wants to make available to our youth.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Nonsense. The money is already spent.

Mr. Whicher: I hear the hon. member say it is nonsense.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Yes. It is already spent.

Mr. Whicher: May I remind you, Sir, that yesterday evening I heard the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) say, when talking about the large sums of money which would be lent to the provinces and municipalities of Canada, that the money was not spent. He was complaining because it was not spent. That is what he suggested yesterday. He suggested that this government has no right to vote moneys for two or three years ahead.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. Whicher: Why did he say that?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order, please. The hon. member is rising to ask a question. Does the hon. member who has the floor agree to accept it?

Mr. Whicher: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to answer as soon as I have finished.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): All right. The hon. member does not seem to know the difference between governor general's warrants and estimates.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Whicher.]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order, please. Hon. members have behaved well so far. The hon. member who has the floor has a very special way of expressing himself, but the Chair is experiencing some difficulty in following the discussion.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): So is everybody else.

Mr. Whicher: The hon. member suggests I do not know what I am talking about. But I do know the difference between relevant and irrelevant facts and I suggest the hon. member should study that question.

Mr. Danforth: Here we go again with the same old argument.

Mr. Whicher: If I may continue speaking about this grant for our athletes, its purpose is to assist the better Canadian athletes who wish to continue both their educational and competitive careers. As athletes move into higher levels of competition, more and more time must be spent on training: this leaves little opportunity for working in order to raise funds for educational purposes. Surely that is self-evident, Mr. Speaker. We hope that athletes from all across Canada will take part in the Olympic games to be held in Montreal in 1976. It is our duty, surely, as legislators—not as Liberal legislators but as Members of Parliament—to help all the young people of Canada so that they can put on a creditable showing in Canada or anywhere else in the world.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whicher: Completed applications are received in duplicate by Sport Canada. Approximately 16,000 application forms were distributed to national sports governing bodies, educational institutions, provincial governments and previous applicants, relative to the 1973 grants. Perhaps I ought to remind hon. members that those grants do not go to any particular area of the country; they go to our athletes in the ten provinces and two territorial districts; they are for our sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters. Conservative members who have spoken against this proposal are obstructing to the nth degree. I do not include all Conservatives because many have not spoken. The Conservatives who have spoken do not support this opportunity that the government has brought before parliament.

Much has been said about the Olympic games which will be held in Canada in 1976. I know this subject is controversial. As a Canadian, I hope that the city of Montreal is very successful in its endeavour.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whicher: If it is successful, and surely we all hope for that, that city may have the laugh on the rest of the country. Montreal was not awarded the Olympics just by accident; the city officials went out and worked for it and the city evidently was prepared to finance the games. I say, God bless them in their endeavour. We are obligated to provide athletes not just from Montreal but from Vancouver, Hamilton, Galt, the Northwest Territories, Newfoundland and all across Canada. This grant will help our athletes and allow them to continue training.