

**Mr. Pepin:** Well, almost; give me one or two. He has certainly been here more often than anybody on the other side. He will be here tomorrow, most probably. The question can wait until then. I presume it will be resolved without a shadow of a doubt by the next budget, so nobody is being hampered, antagonized, provoked or damaged in the process.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO REDUCE  
PAYMENTS TO PROVINCES

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** I thought that perhaps the Acting Prime Minister had played a role here, but it is obvious he did not. May I direct the question to the Minister of State for Finance? Can he tell us whether it is the intention of the Canadian government to reduce transfer payments to the provinces for social services and for post-secondary education by \$1.5 billion, and if it is not \$1.5 billion as the Minister of Finance has said, can the minister provide the House with the total figure for reductions planned by the government?

**Mr. La Salle:** It's easy, Mr. Pepin!

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State (Finance)):** Madam Speaker, I would like to remind the Leader of the Opposition that copies of the October, 1980, budget are still available. In that budget it was clearly stated that with a view to reducing the government deficit and expenditures, certain reductions were planned over two years in an area that would cover more than 20 per cent of government expenditures. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to take the trouble, he can read the paragraphs relating to that provision.

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[English]

FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT

FUNDING OF ATHLETES

**Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State responsible for fitness and amateur sport. It seems to be his day, but perhaps after the Question Period he will decide it was not his day. In any event, my question concerns the statement by Abby Hoffman, the new director of Sport Canada, who has been quoted as saying:

—too much time and effort is being spent on bureaucracy without ensuring those bureaucratic elements will have a positive effect on sport.

Miss Hoffman has also suggested that Canada will never break into the top eight internationally unless we increase our direct support for athletic funding. Presently direct sport funding, as the minister will know, amounts to about \$3 million out of the \$30-million budget, with the rest going to the bureaucracy and other forms of grants. Does the minister agree that we have achieved or have gone about as far as we can go athletically at international levels unless we increase

this direct support to our athletes, and if he does, what does he plan to do about it?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Secretary of State):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member, who has been a very great supporter of amateur sport in this country, quotes from a very, very distinguished acquisition to the Government of Canada. I think Abby Hoffman will be a great director for Sport Canada, and her presence there in such a senior position will, indeed, be very helpful to the cause of amateur sport in this country.

In relation to the quantum of money available for the support of amateur sport, I think we are making very great progress; indeed, we did in the Summer Games in Montreal in 1976 when, because of the game plan and the efforts of provincial and federal governments in the three years before, we moved from twenty-fifth position to tenth position in the final standings. I believe having the Winter Olympics in Calgary in 1988 provides us with the reason to make that sort of effort in relation to Winter Games in the coming years.

Certainly having additional money for broader training of elite athletes, and for providing more international competition, is a very worth-while objective. If these dismantlers of Canada across there on the left had not given away Loto Canada to the provinces we would have that kind of money right now. I look forward to hon. members supporting the establishment of a sports pool of Canada in the forthcoming legislation.

● (1500)

FUNDING FOR 1982 GAMES IN AUSTRALIA

**Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody):** The minister, as one of Canada's most prominent athletic supporters—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Rose:** —knows full well and understands clearly that even if his sports pool does go ahead, there will be no pay-off whatsoever until 1983. The minister also knows that in 1982 the Commonwealth Games are in Australia, the games which Canada won in Edmonton in 1978, lifting the pride and spirit of all Canadians.

Does the minister have any plans and any special funding in mind and, if so, will he tell the House?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Secretary of State):** I want to tell the hon. member that the money that is being presently voted for fitness and amateur sport is being spent in such an efficient manner that we believe the needs and demands leading up to events such as he has mentioned, the World Student Games that will be held in Edmonton, are provided for. What we do need is a great deal of money to help support the Winter Olympics in Calgary in 1988 and in the years leading up to that date. That is why it is important we move now in the direction of something like the sports pool. In the meantime, I am confident the Treasury Board, in its infinite wisdom, will continue to recognize the importance of the work of fitness and amateur sport.