

Olympic Financing

numismatists and one for ordinary Canadians, but he overlooked the centrally important fact that these coins were designed for different purchasers, that they had a different face value, and that they had the same silver content. What we are trying to do with this amendment is bring in a situation in which the specialty coin, if one wants to put it that way, is recognized as having the same gold content. Let me go back over that. I think I am becoming—

An hon. Member: Obtuse.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): If I were becoming obtuse, my colleague across the way would understand me. What we are trying to achieve with this amendment is a situation where there will be a guarantee of the gold content of the coin. That would be achieved by the amendment. It is not achieved by the bill as it stands. The amendment introduced by my colleague from York-Simcoe would eliminate the possibility that an innocent buyer could be misled into paying more than he should for a coin with less value than he thinks it has. That is what we are trying to achieve by this amendment. This is the safeguard which we would like to see and in respect of which the government refuses to act.

● (1700)

We are operating on the principle that people should know what they are buying, and as this legislation stands without the amendment they will not know the gold content of the coin they are buying. This will be set by the minister at his discretion.

Mr. Mackasey: May I ask the hon. member a question. First, may I say that the hon. member's point is a valid point. Earlier on, the hon. member said that the silver content is consistent and does not change. Would the hon. gentleman be satisfied if actually all the gold coin buyers around the world were assured of the precise quantity of gold in the coins and that it will not change in the issue, because the hon. member is making a valid point that people should know the quantity of gold at the time of the purchase? What I am suggesting is a compromise. We are quite prepared to state openly and officially before the coins go on sale the quantity of gold in the two different coins.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, a question was addressed to me which should probably go to the official spokesman of my party on this matter. I do not want to violate parliamentary traditions, but I wonder if the minister might ask me another question.

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I apologize for interrupting the hon. member—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): The procedure we are following now is highly irregular. It is in order for the minister to rise and request of a member who has the floor permission to ask a question. It is then possible for the minister to proceed and the member to reply. But I think the procedure we are now following is not a regular one.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your safeguarding of regularity here. I think that my response to the minister's question would be yes, I think

[Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain).]

we would be prepared to accept that if there were also a certain way of guaranteeing that not only the numismatists would know the quantity of gold in the coin they bought but also that the ordinary Canadian from Drayton Valley or Verdun would know the value of the coin he is buying and that, indeed all purchasers would know the value of the coins.

We want some guarantee that is stronger than ministerial discretion because to us that is not much of a guarantee. It seems to me that the amendment which my colleague, the hon. member for York-Simcoe, has introduced provides a simple way to achieve that, but I am sure that if the minister wants to take some time to devise another amendment we on this side would be prepared to have the vote stood on this matter, after others have spoken, to allow the minister time to prepare a subamendment to the amendment introduced by the hon. member for York-Simcoe.

It may well be that after his consultations with the government House leader, or with another member of his party, the minister member may want to designate someone else to indicate whether or not that is the kind of procedure he would like to follow. Certainly we on this side of the House, who have reservations about the bill as it stands, and who have introduced an important amendment to it, would like to know what it is we are debating. If the government will back away and introduce some amendment of its own to provide some certainty here, we would like to know that.

To use your phrase, Mr. Speaker, it is highly irregular of me to stand here awaiting further questions from the government benches, but we would like to have some signal of the government's intention on this matter before proceeding further with the debate on this amendment.

I will conclude by saying that we believe, as a matter of principle, that people who are buying these coins, wherever they reside, should know what they are buying. If the minister has some absolute guarantee which he can provide, we will certainly be prepared to consider it. We proposed one way of achieving that purpose, but the minister expressed some reservations about it. If he or one of his colleagues wishes to introduce a subamendment, I think we would be very interested to consider it when it comes before us.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco)—External Affairs—Request for withdrawal of aid from Uganda pending decision on fate of Dennis Hills; the hon. member for Rocky Mountain (Mr. Clark)—National Parks—Banff—Request new housing be made available in town; the hon. member for Burnaby-Rich-