

Adjournment Debate

in endorsing our approach which avoids hasty pronouncements on oil pricing before the views of provinces have been solicited.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—BOYCOTTING OF MOSCOW OLYMPICS—
GOVERNMENT POSITION ON OTHER SPORTS ACTIVITIES WITH
SOVIETS

Mr. Otto Jelinek (Halton): Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to justify the inconsistency and hypocrisy of his government in respect of the Olympic boycott on the one hand and the government's refusal to ban other artistic and sporting events between the Soviet Union and Canada on the other, specifically the forthcoming Canada Cup hockey series in which the Soviets are scheduled to play. Twice the Prime Minister did not justify his position, but instead reiterated his hypocritical stance by saying:

Our condemnation is of games to be held in Moscow. That is the total aspect of it. We are not condemning sporting events, amateur or professional, held in other fora.

That is unfair, unjust, hypocritical and inconsistent. The Prime Minister condemns the Olympic Games, but that is not the question. The question is, do he and his government condemn the dastardly act of military invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union? Is he condemning that country completely, or is the Prime Minister and his government condemning the Soviet Union partially for that act? If it is full and complete condemnation, then I suggest that all artistic, economic and sporting ties should be broken, whether that means disallowing the Soviet hockey team to participate in the Canada Cup series, or, for that matter, whether it means disallowing the continuation of Soviet-built Lada cars to be sold in Canada, particularly at this time when there are proposed massive lay-offs within the automotive industry in this country.

If the government is partially condemning the Soviet Union for its invasion of Afghanistan, then it is partially condoning the invasion as well. I do not think Canadians accept that fact, as I do not. This is as though you, sir, would not allow one of your daughters to marry a murderer, which would be proper, but then allowed your second daughter to marry the same man. That would not be fair and it would not be consistent. That is precisely the position of this government.

As a former Olympian and world athlete I know that the Soviet Union prides itself in sports events and uses them as the number one propaganda tool. How can the Prime Minister sit there and allow Soviet hockey players and Soviet athletes to come and play games here, while disallowing our athletes to go over there? I would like to hear that explanation. This is a half-position.

There is no leadership by the Prime Minister in this case. We all know he did not want to boycott the Olympic Games in the first place, but public and international pressure forced him to back down. We all know where his personal philosophies lie and who his friends are, and they certainly are not our traditional allies in the free world. It is time the Prime

Minister put his personal philosophies aside in matters of this nature and began to assume the leadership role Canada should have in events involving human rights.

• (2215)

This deals with human rights because there are murderers from the Soviet Union invading countries, whether it be Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and now Afghanistan. We as Canadians, because of this government, are partially condoning those dastardly acts by allowing the Soviet Union to play games, sell their cars, and through their games to make hundreds of thousands of dollars to take back to the Soviet Union.

I am, of course, delighted with the response, the ground swell of support, which has taken place since last Thursday when I made my first statement. This support has come from NHL hockey players, arena managers and owners, athletes, much of the media, the public and other groups. I know that the answer which I will receive tonight will be a farce, as is usually the case. The answer will not be on my specific question; do we condemn the Soviet Union fully or do we condemn it partially? I know that it will be a farce. However, that is not the point. The point is that I would like to urge tonight all Canadians, in the name of human rights and world peace, to get on that bandwagon and demand of this bleeding heart, hypocritical government that it bar all further artistic, economic and sporting ties with the Soviet Union until all Soviet troops have left Afghanistan and it complies with the Helsinki agreement, and the Human Rights agreement which they signed and to which Canada is a signatory. I plead with Canada to get on the bandwagon.

I have pleaded with the Prime Minister in the past in matters of this nature but to no avail. The matter is left to public opinion and world international pressure to get the Prime Minister to back down, as he did with the Olympic boycott, on other ties with the Soviet Union, until it complies with the principles of human rights.

[Translation]

Mr. Louis Duclos (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the Prime Minister said yesterday in answer to questions from the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Jelinek), the Government of Canada is not opposed to Canadians taking part in multilateral sporting events in which the Soviet Union might also participate. However, the Olympics represent an exceptional case in that the games are held in Moscow and we cannot give the government of the Soviet Union an opportunity to have the Russian people believe that the invasion of Afghanistan is leaving the western world indifferent.

However, the government does not intend to intervene in the organization of the Canada Cup this fall or in the organization of any other multilateral competition. But should professional hockey players decide, as some stars of the National League just indicated, to associate themselves with the amateur athletes who are now bearing the cost of a government decision,