

Olympic Bill

consider that under the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation Act we will allocate to this project certain sums of money for the acquisition of the site decided on by the city, under a zoning bylaw. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the City of Montreal to decide upon the site and I do not think we have any duty to intervene. It is rather a matter of zoning which comes exclusively under municipal jurisdiction.

I hope that all Canadians wherever they may be will prove equal to the occasion and show a sporting spirit in the negotiation of their contribution to the Olympic Games of 1976. We should not continue, as some do, to curb the initiatives of Mayor Jean Drapeau. He succeeded in getting the Olympic Games of 1976 for Canada, he deserves the highest praise for the efforts he is now making on behalf of these Games in order that they be a success, which will make Canada very proud. We should give him our full co-operation, in order that he may be able to put to work all the machinery that such an achievement requires, and not attempt to demolish what he has been getting for us. We often react as spoiled children, too easily frustrated by the resistance of the realities, in a world that is getting harder very quickly. The Olympic Games will enable us to play hosts to the whole world. Why not take this opportunity and invite all sports fan to a grand feast, that of the joy of living in Canada? Sport is a way to produce citizens of quality.

Mr. Speaker, we should not sulk against the Olympic Games, but on the contrary support them as a significant phase towards the training and disciplining of our Canadian youth.

[English]

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I think that on rising to speak in this debate I should make one thing very clear because for five years I served as president and then chairman of the Vancouver-Garibaldi executive committee which bid for and sought to bring the 1976 winter Olympics to Garibaldi and Vancouver. During that time—I want to be very fair about this—I had the good fortune to be associated with Canadians right across this country, Canadians who were members of parliament and civil servants, many of them from Quebec. I want to make it very clear to all members of the House that while at times the competition was pretty keen, those years made for me, and I hope for some of those whom I met, friendships which made us all better Canadians. Out of it all we were met with the situation where the city of Montreal received the nod for the summer Olympics from the International Olympics Committee in 1970 in Amsterdam. Life being what it is, that meant that the winter Olympics bid for Canada for that year was out of the running.

● (2110)

It would be idle not to face the fact that that created some problems, especially in my own city. There were those, of course, who asked why, after Expo, Montreal was bidding anyway. There were those who felt that somehow or other this wasn't fair. I say to all members of the House who come from the province of Quebec that I do not think you will find it too difficult to understand why there was such comment. But generally speaking, Mr. Speaker, all

[Mr. Roy (Laval).]

Canadians accepted, I think with some pride, the fact that the summer Olympics were coming to Canada.

I think if that was all there was to this problem, we would not have had the last several years of acrimony, distasteful dispute and unfortunate recrimination that has plagued what ought to be, and what I hope eventually will be, a great thing for this country and a great thing for the world. But I think if it is going to be what I think the majority of us want it to be, there is a time when we will have to become honest with ourselves.

In his opening remarks, the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) referred to Canada's participation in past Olympics, and he talked about it all being in the best traditions of the Olympic code. Mr. Speaker, the reason we are in difficulty tonight, and the reason my colleague the hon. member for Matane (Mr. De Bané) and some respected friends to my left take the position they do is that unfortunately that bid was not conceived in the highest traditions of the Olympic code. The sooner we all face that fact, admit it and put it behind us, the sooner we can go on to make these games a success, which is what I want and what most of us want.

Let me just say this. In 1968 there were three cities in Canada bidding for the summer Olympic games—Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton. The Montreal bid came in at an estimated cost of \$120 million. I have forgotten the exact cost of the other bids; they may not have been any more accurate. The Vancouver winter bid, in contrast, came in with detailed studies, including cost estimates and economic feasibility studies, because the winter bid was saying clearly that we could not put on a winter Olympics in Vancouver, in the mountain country north of the city, without substantial federal and provincial aid.

The position of the Montreal organizing committee was made very clear to the Canadian Olympic Association because those gentlemen asked, "Can you do it without federal funds?" Everyone was conscious of the Expo situation and the answer given was, "Yes, we can." Let me be very frank. Some people were kidding themselves. I do not blame so much the Montreal organizing committee at that point, but I have very serious reservations about whether the members of the Canadian Olympic Association were properly putting their minds to the figures that were in front of them. The fact is that nobody was thinking about the cost. People assumed that somehow or other, if a city could get the games, somebody would have to pay for them later. I refer to an article which appeared in the *Montreal Gazette* on April 26, 1969, in which a member of the Canadian Olympic Association was reported as saying:

I think there are two ways of looking at it. One way is to do all the detailed groundwork and feasibility studies the way the B.C. group has done and present your bid on a point by point basis. The other is Mayor Drapeau's way. He is obviously hoping to sell the city to the IOC on the basis of his own personal contacts with these people. You could say he's betting on a kind of mystique that surrounds his reputation.

Let us tonight recognize these things and face them. But that is not where the trouble ended. In 1969, recognizing that Canada could not have two games in one year, members of the Olympic group went to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and raised several points with him. We asked, "What does the Government of Canada want? Does it want the summer games? Does it want the winter games?"