

I suggest to the Postmaster General that the business through this House will be more expeditiously handled if the government treats the opposition with a little more openness and frankness from time to time.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) has already underlined the fact that each and every member of the official opposition party has supported the principle of holding the Olympics in Canada since it was announced that we would hold them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Grafftey: But we do not feel it is good for our reputation or in fact good for national unity when the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) plays confrontation politics with something as important as the Olympics. As the Leader of the Opposition has said, along with the premier of the province of Quebec and the mayor of Montreal the Prime Minister of Canada also welcomed the Olympics to this country. But since that day we have been wondering where he stands with his "on again, off again" confrontation tactics vis-à-vis Olympic financing.

I am a Quebecker who lives near the city of Montreal and I am proud that the Olympics are going to be held in that great metropolis of Canada. We have a great job to do in terms of letting everybody in Canada and everybody outside Canada know that the games are going to be held in Canada, and it will be largely the Canadian taxpayers' dollars that will pick up much of the deficit.

One thing I deplore, Madam Speaker. The hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens) and the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley (Mr. Jelinek) have both worked tirelessly and sincerely in the interests of all Canadians in order to bring certain good amendments before the House. I say to the Postmaster General that the chickens are soon going to come home to roost.

● (1450)

We believe that if the amendment we proposed had been accepted today, not only would the Canadian people be getting real coinage for the first time in the history of coins of this sort—they have in fact been watered down—but the deficit would have been much smaller. Not only would the Canadian people be getting real, bona fide coinage containing the right amount of gold, but if the minister had done his homework much more money would have been gathered in order to defray the deficit.

I know the minions in the backbenches of the Liberal Party were far more interested in going into the city of Montreal trying to paint us as anti-Quebec. Because of the very nature and political complexity of this country today, every time members of the opposition get up and suggest, in good faith, an amendment which affects all Canadians—in the province of Quebec and outside Quebec—directly or indirectly, the minions in the backbenches of the Liberal Party go around Montreal shouting "anti-Canadian" or "anti-Quebec".

[Translation]

—anti-Canadians, anti-Quebec, it is not a good thing for Canada nor for national unity. The amendment that we, members of the opposition, moved were designed to protect the value of the coins issued by the Canadian govern-

Olympic 1976 Act

ment to help the Olympic Games. And if we moved amendments, it was to protect the value of the coins that will be distributed and also for the benefit of Quebecers. I feel that the members from Quebec have insulted their fellow citizens as well as all Canadian people.

If I speak so feelingly, it is because Canada and my province are, in my opinion, much more important than the Liberal party. I quite agree that due to circumstances in general your little speeches are made rather for political purposes than for the benefit of my province and my country.

[English]

I do not think it is funny when seven or eight Liberal backbenchers pretend to be nice guys on the floor of the House of Commons. The Postmaster General looks at me with a hurt feeling, but he knows better than anybody what goes on on the Island of Montreal. I am going to repeat this idea again and again, but every time an economic measure comes up for debate in this House of Commons, the Liberal backbenchers go back to the province of Quebec and repeat the same nonsense; they shout "anti-Quebec" or "anti-Canadian". If that is all you people can do, then you should pack your bags and go home, because that attitude is not good for Canada.

Funny money is funny money in the province of Quebec just as it is in the rest of Canada. I suggest to the Postmaster General that as a result of his hasty acquiescence, his little tricks and his invocation of national unity for short-term political gains, the chickens will come home to roost; the Olympic deficit will not be taken up as well as it might have been if this morning the House had adopted the amendments. As a result of their not having been accepted, there will be a distribution of this funny money in all the provinces, including Quebec, and in my area of Brome-Missisquoi for which I am speaking.

[Translation]

The constituency of Brome-Missisquoi is 85 per cent French-speaking. Phoney money will be issued in Brome-Missisquoi and throughout Canada as a result of a policy adopted by this government today.

I hope that in the future such measures will be approached with an open mind. We are not here to play politics but for the benefit of the country and to amend the legislation from time to time.

[English]

I would bet that if the Postmaster General had not been so hasty, if he had practised the participatory democracy we have heard so much about, and had canvassed his caucus—assuming its members had paid attention to the debate and the amendments—he would have found 70 per cent of his caucus would have called this a very bad bill.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Grafftey: The minister can read between the lines; he knows what I am getting at. In view of the political complexion of this country and its regionalism, and because of the political forces brought about mostly because of the politics of confrontation on the part of the Prime Minister, I suggest that when we have matters such as the financing of the Olympic Games they should be