

S.O. 21

who have been working for years, in accordance with the Olympic ideals, for the day on which they will compete with one another, will no longer be the hostages of politics or ideology.

Mr. Speaker, if sports are to remain part of the key to international understanding, we cannot afford to set up these ideological and political barriers every four years and we must keep young people who are anxious to compete with their peers from being the hostages of their political leaders. Mr. Speaker, it is very important for Canada to lead the way in this field and prevent countries from making the Olympic Games a matter of prestige and expensive buildings and facilities for the country concerned, because what young people want is to meet with their peers every four years and compete with each other in accordance with the Olympic ideal.

* * *

[English]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

DECISION TO ELIMINATE CABOOSES

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, the CNR has officially embarked on a program to operate its trains without a caboose at the rear. It is pleading economic pressures and technological improvements. It contends that the introduction of hot box detectors, dragging equipment detectors, and other technological improvements, now negate the necessity for a man in a caboose. This is simply not so.

Trains are now longer; over two miles is not unusual, and a mile and a half is very common. They travel faster, 50 to 65 miles per hour, and they carry more dangerous commodities than ever before. Coupled with this, there are fewer operating, inspection, and maintenance forces than there have ever been. This naturally means less and less attention is being given to rolling stock, and fewer people are inspecting either standing or running trains.

Cities, towns, and communities are more in jeopardy than they have ever been, and now the CNR wants to remove the man at the rear of the train, the key person who keeps a constant watch over the train while it is in motion. If this is allowed to happen, Mississauga will have been only a rehearsal for what is to come. I call on all Members of Parliament, and members of the public, to pay attention to this issue and not let it be decided on a technical basis. It is a political issue and it ought to be treated as such.

* * *

SPORTS

HARDY CUP CANADIAN INTERMEDIATE "A" CHAMPIONSHIP—
CONGRATULATIONS TO VICTORIOUS CHARLOTTETOWN
ISLANDERS

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Commons my colleague, the Hon. Member for Edmon-

ton West (Mr. Lambert), proudly congratulated the Edmonton Oilers as the new Stanley Cup champions. Unquestionably the Oilers have brought great credit to Edmonton and the West, indeed to all of Canada, by their win over the New York Islanders.

However, I wish to draw to your attention, Sir, and to the attention of the House, that the Charlottetown Islanders have performed a similar feat for that city, for Prince Edward Island, and for the Atlantic Provinces, by winning the Hardy Cup Canadian Intermediate "A" Championship. They did so by beating the Moose Jaw Generals four games to one in the best of seven finals.

I know all Members of the House join me in congratulating Captain Wilfred MacDonald, Coach Errol Thompson, all other members of the Charlottetown Islanders, and everyone else associated with the team, on this major national sports triumph. As the Member of Parliament for the team's riding, I take particular pride in their victory.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

● (1410)

FINANCE

ONTARIO TAX INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR HOUSING SENIOR
CITIZENS IN HOME ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Mr. Speaker, Canadian senior citizens cannot enjoy their golden age unless they have housing facilities suitable to their needs. Substantial improvements have been made across Canada in senior citizen housing and homes for special care, but there is much more that can be done.

While special housing may be the answer in some cases, most senior citizens would be happier in their own homes or sharing homes with members of their family. In this context we should applaud the measures taken by the Government of Ontario. In its recent Budget, Ontario provided tax incentives to home owners who make renovations to keep elderly relatives living at home. Similar tax incentives are provided to elderly home owners themselves who renovate rather than move to special housing for seniors.

Our social concern can be measured, in Canada, by the way we treat our senior citizens and those who cannot cope without help. Keeping elderly Canadians in a home environment recognizes that senior citizens are an important element in each Canadian community. By encouraging Canadian families to care for their own, the Ontario Government has shown leadership which the federal Government and other provinces would be wise to follow.