

*The Address—Mr. Ouellet*

President of the ABC network, sports section, last January 30, he wrote as follows and I quote:

[English]

To clarify some of the misquotes in the press following my so-called allegations, I want to make it clear that at no time did I accuse or suggest that ABC was aware of any underhanded or illegal dealings that I believe arose as a result of the ABC contract with COJO. Nor have I ever indicated that the negotiations conducted by ABC in obtaining the exclusive television rights were ever "shady" or illegal or in any way improper.

I do, however, want to reiterate my belief that somewhere along the line, funds did in fact find their way into the Quebec provincial Liberal coffers as a result of the completion of the contract.

I hope this clarifies my position in this matter.

It is signed by the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley (Mr. Jelinek).

[Translation]

There! We see the true face of the hon. member. Forced to retract because of a doubt he had spread about the integrity of the ABC network, he retracts; but he continues to claim that money was paid to the Quebec Liberal Party. He has no proof of it, but he continues to throw mud, to discredit Quebecers. This is the typical way to act for some members of the Progressive Conservative Party!

● (1520)

[English]

I think a television program "the City at Six" which was broadcast on March 1 following the second intervention in the House of Commons by the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley is a pretty good resumé and a pretty good answer to the allegations made by the hon. member. In a press notice in the parliamentary gallery he announced his intervention in the throne speech debate in these words:

I hope to, among other things, explain my position on the Olympic issue, as well as disclose further evidence as to the irregularities of the awarding of the contract.

The following is a portion of a transcript of the TV program to which I have referred. Bob Jeronomie, TV broadcaster, said:

There was to have been a bit of drama in the House of Commons today. Otto Jelinek, the Conservative MP, had promised to document his charges of bribery in connection with the awarding of television rights for the 1976 Olympics.

That did not happen. Mr. Jeronomie continued:

Tim Knight has worked on this story for weeks now. He got a copy of the agreement between ABC and COJO, he went to Ottawa and New York city and he talked to the people involved. Here is his report.

Mr. Knight interviewed Mr. Rousseau, Lord Killanin, Mr. Josephson and Mr. Arlidge, and all of them absolutely denied any wrongdoing in this matter. He said that when he interviewed the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley and asked what proof he had, what evidence and documents, that there were some shenanigans going on there and that some money had found its way into the Liberal Party of Quebec, the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley answered:

As far as the money finding its way into the Liberal Party, I have absolutely no proof at this time.

Mr. Knight concluded his inquiry by saying the following:

[Mr. Ouellet.]

The problem is, of course, that it is incredibly difficult to prove innocence, but it seems to me that unless Otto Jelinek or somebody else does come up with a lot more details and facts than they have—there is no foundation for all these rumours or these allegations. All the principals involved deny any kickbacks, any bribery. It is a fact that NBC or CBS could have challenged the ABC deal at any time up to May last year. Then, and only then, did ABC officially get the television rights to the Montreal games. There is some friction, of course, between the International Olympic Committee and COJO here in Montreal, but that's not unusual in a contract as big as this. All in all, this reporter throws this case out of court for lack of evidence.

[Translation]

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I think the time has come for the Progressive Conservative Party to reveal its true intentions, without ambiguity, about its position on the Olympic Games in Montreal and Kingston, in 1976.

The hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley (Mr. Jelinek) claims to be the spokesman for the PC party on olympic matters. He was one of the first to take the floor after the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) in the name of his party in this House, during this debate. So he surely speaks in the name of the Progressive Conservative Party. But he does not deserve to speak in its name on matters relating to the Olympic Games. He has explicitly and clearly proven that he is incompetent or that he is not in good faith. In my opinion the time has come for the official opposition to seek in its ranks someone else to speak on olympic matters. I know that several members of the opposition are undoubtedly favourable to the games. If I may, I would like to suggest to the Leader of the Opposition to ask the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser) or the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling) or the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) to speak about the Olympic Games but let him get rid of this man who makes charges that are likely to be very prejudicial to the 1976 Olympic Games. This is not worthy of a member of parliament. Otherwise, I will have to conclude, as will the people of Canada, that Progressive Conservative members are opposed to the games. They cannot keep on playing that game. When they go to Montreal, they tell the people that they are pleased, but when they go in other parts of the country, they say that the games should have been divided, one part being held in Montreal, another in Toronto and another still in western Canada.

This hon. member who already took part in olympic competitions is perfectly aware of the fact that the games cannot be divided in this way. He knows perfectly well that the games must take place in one main location. Since the beginning of this debate, the Progressive Conservative party have indulged in peanut politics. They unduly and incorrectly pestered us in committee, through the voice of this member who keeps on sullyng Quebecers. The Progressive Conservative party continue to divide people in this country whereas, thanks to the games, we should unify Canada. And all of us should be very proud that these games will be held in Montreal and Kingston in 1976. Athletes from all parts of Canada will take part in the games. People from all parts of Canada will come to attend these games, both in Montreal and Kingston.

Therefore, I say that the Progressive Conservative party show their real position, otherwise we will understand that they are always sitting on the fence and that in the end they are opposed to everything stemming from or