

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order. Is the hon. member raising a point of order?

Mr. De Bané: No, Mr. Speaker, I should like, with the permission of the hon. member for Saint Hyacinthe, ask him a question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order. Does the hon. member agree?

Mr. Wagner: I should like to reply to all the questions of the hon. member for Matane, but I would not like to encroach upon the time allotted to the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Roy) or to other members, especially the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) who is anxiously waiting to deal with his favorite subject.

Mr. De Bané: Here is the question I should like to ask—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Am I to understand that the hon. member does not agree? In that case, I recognize the hon. member for Laval.

Mr. Wagner: I readily agree, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. De Bané: I think that—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): I hope that the hon. member is not raising a point of order.

Mr. De Bané: The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe agreed to reply to the question that I am going to ask him and which is as follows: Does—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): I did not understand that the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe agreed to reply to the question of the hon. member.

I have to repeat my question: Does the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe agree to reply to the questions of the hon. member for Matane?

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I am always ready to answer the hon. member's questions but not to at the expense of all the other hon. members seeking the floor.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): The hon. member for Matane has the floor.

Mr. De Bané: My question is very brief: does the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe believe in the financial analysis conducted by the Treasury Board and tabled by the Prime Minister to the effect that the deficit would amount to \$172 million? Does he believe in this analysis and, if so, is he prepared to submit an amendment to the bill so that the federal government and not the province of Quebec will pay this \$172 million deficit?

Mr. Wagner: I would reply to the hon. member that I, for one, never take any financial analysis for gospel truth. Besides, I accept in good faith the commitment voiced by the Prime Minister of Canada.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): The hon. member for Laval (Mr. Roy) has the floor.

Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must also thank the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe for

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his courtesy and commend him for the speech he delivered tonight.

I have also religiously listened to the remarks made by the previous speakers and this is why I had to speak briefly on the second reading of the bill on the 1976 Olympic games.

I will try and discuss its principles; I do not intend to describe to you the situation prevailing in Montreal. This is not the purpose of this bill now and again I do not think that the mere considering of this legislation should not be taken as favouring a decision as to whether or not the Olympic Games will be held in Montreal or not. I think that such a decision has already been confirmed, but tonight we have to consider a piece of legislation relating to a financing program, and I quote:

to provide for the issue for circulation in Canada of Olympic commemorative coins and for the manufacture and sale of Olympic commemorative stamps and postal related products;

I do not intend to deal with the subject from the accountant's viewpoint.

We must not scowl at the Olympic Games. The year 1976 will be the year when Canadians will have the chance to measure their status as responsible men and women.

As far as health and amateur sports are concerned, the Olympic Games represent for the individual one of the most important and most complete tests.

I am proud to see tonight in the House the hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) who is studying, listening to his colleagues' arguments for or against this bill.

Therefore, I suggest that the Olympic Games will enable us to measure the ability and the will of those who take part in them. Wherever they come from, all participants must, before getting in the Olympic Games, take part in elementary competitions at the regional, national and international levels.

As I stated at the outset of my remarks, I do not intend to deal with the matter of financing. Some experts have already undertook and others will undertake to debate that matter. But I think that tonight, it is rather a matter of awareness, for all hon. members, of the value of "Olympism" in the development of the individual. Generally, young people who commit suicide are not very fond of sports; they do not like to make efforts. They are afraid to live, they have not been able to come out of themselves in order to face reality and human society. Young people who take drugs are also trying to escape and look for a retreat far from fight, a dream of return to irresponsibility. I suggest that this aspect of "Olympism" is quite valid but very difficult to measure. Therefore, it is a huge privilege for Canada to have been chosen as the host country for the Olympic Games in 1976. In addition to honour, the Olympic Games will make an economic and psychologic contribution for our country.

The Olympic Games are not the exclusive privilege of a province nor of the city of Montreal, but they are a national and international commitment which will bring about national, constructive and specific benefits. In my opinion, there is no room for partisanship or for low-rate arguments against the place chosen for these events to take place. I think that when we talk of the site, we must