

Oral Questions

million, without tender, to cover the Montreal Olympic games when the National Broadcasting Company had in fact indicated that they were prepared to bid up to \$32.9 million, without any strings attached?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I have had no discussions of that kind, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Jelinek: I wonder whether the Prime Minister knows that Carl Lindeman, Vice-President of the Columbia Broadcasting System, in addition to not being given a chance to bid for the contract was told point blank that he would have to kick in \$5 million to the Quebec government for pay-offs if he wished to negotiate a contract with COJO, and that he refused to do business with Canada along those lines? Will the Prime Minister advise the House whether he is willing to take immediate steps to initiate an inquiry into the many and constant allegations arising from the ABC contract with COJO, inasmuch as the contract was finalized without giving the other networks an opportunity to bid for the coverage of the Montreal Olympic games?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, it is not the policy of my government to look into the dealings and decisions of a provincial government in matters within its jurisdiction. If I understand it to be the policy of the Conservative party that I should suggest such a course to Premier Bourassa, I will do so, but I would want to know if the hon. member is speaking on behalf of his party.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate that the Leader of the Opposition wants to rise on a point of order. He will be recognized in a moment. I remind hon. members that we should try to limit supplementaries as much as possible.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I rise simply because the Prime Minister has made a statement that is very misleading. The hon. member's question related to the responsibility of this government with regard to a project being supported by this government. The Prime Minister tried to twist this around in an attempt to indicate that we want to interfere, somehow improperly, in provincial affairs. Is the Prime Minister prepared to exercise his responsibility to look into a matter that clearly involves the responsibility of this government?

● (1200)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the extent of the involvement of this government was made quite clear to the House of Commons in a statement by me in the House in January of last year. I spelled out that involvement. I indicated to the House we would not support the Olympic project at all if it did not have the support of the House of Commons. The support of the House of Commons was given, including that of the Conservative party. We are living up to every undertaking the government undertook

[Mr. Jelinek.]

to discharge in every aspect as regards COJO and the Olympic project, but we have not undertaken to monitor the relations between COJO and the provincial government any more than we have decided to monitor the relations between the federal Conservative party and the Toronto government in its dealings.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**ACTION TO INCREASE PAYMENTS TO PRERETIRED COAL MINERS**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion who is responsible for the Cape Breton Development Corporation. It is related to an earlier question I posed to the minister on December 10. On that occasion, I raised the question of an increase in the allowances received by preretired coal miners in Cape Breton. At that time the minister replied that Devco would have the government's complete approval if the corporation were to increase the allowances now received in accordance with the actual cost of living. What steps has the minister taken since that time to bring this about, and how soon will the expressed approval of the government be implemented? Also, does the minister have knowledge of what steps the corporation has taken or is taking to implement the government's complete approval of this action?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, without being precise as to dates and without checking the record, my recollection is that, in terms of the last submission by Devco of their capital budget and the various changes which were made in the preretirement plan, pensions and so on, it was agreed at that time that pensions would be escalated on the same basis as the Canada Pension Plan. Without checking the dates, I cannot be sure that has actually happened in terms of the Canada Pension Plan or when it happened, but the two are now in concert. One will go up at the same rate as the other. The increase will be on the same basis as the Canada Pension Plan.

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SPORTS**MONTREAL OLYMPIC GAMES, 1976—RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALLEGED ADDITIONAL COST OF COVERAGE BY CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It refers to the previous series. In view of reports that costs for coverage of the 1976 Montreal Olympics by the CBC, which will act as host broadcaster, may soar well beyond the \$25 million federal commitment articulated by the Prime Minister on February 2, 1973, has there been any further commitment