

Olympic 1976 Act

must be kept in mind that I prefer to say that Canada will host the Olympics because it happens that I feel that most opposition and government members think that it is with the money contributed by all Canadian taxpayers that we will finance the Olympics.

Madam Speaker, I repeat for the second time that every member in this House must be satisfied that from the beginning, we in the opposition have supported the holding of the Olympics Games in Canada. But what I regret deeply it is that every time we—

Some hon. Members: The hon. member makes children cry in the galleries!

Mr. Grafftey: What I regret deeply, Madam Speaker, and I will speak frankly and clearly this afternoon, is that every time the opposition bring forward serious amendments to the Olympics Act for the well being of all Canadians, the government members... I listen to the radio, I watch TV in the province of Quebec. Whenever we propose amendments to a legislation, government members will say: "Once again, opposition members are against Canada, against Quebec". I hope that such a policy is outmoded. I hope the Postmaster General (Mr. Mackasey) agrees with me that the Olympics Games should unite the Canadian population. And it is not right that whenever we are suggesting amendments in good faith the Liberals in Montreal say: "Once more the Progressive Conservative members are against Canadians, against Quebec". Oh yes, you will claim that this is not true but I listen to radio. Yes, some opposition members do listen to radio in the province of Quebec. You are all smiles in the House of Commons but it is not the same story in Montreal, over the radio and on television.

I must say that, in my opinion, it is with the money of Canadian taxpayers that we will finance the Olympics in Montreal, in the province of Quebec. But the Olympic Games are supposed to bring together all Canadians, from British Columbia to Newfoundland.

I do not think it is a good thing. I repeat for the third or fourth time that it is not a good thing. The Minister knows it. It is not good when we move such amendments, when members like the hon. member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme)... Yes, you are typical... You are the one who made such a statement: Once again, the anti-Quebecers...

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but I want to remind him that he must address the Chair and not the members opposite.

Mr. Prud'homme: I rise on a question of privilege, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): The hon. member for Saint-Denis rises on a question of privilege.

Mr. Prud'homme: Madam Speaker, I do not want to—

Some hon. Members: Filibuster, filibuster.

Mr. Prud'homme: I do not want to cut short the eloquence of the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Grafftey), but I think he has certainly gone too far when he said that the hon. member for Saint-Denis... I may

[Mr. Grafftey.]

have interrupted him, but I have never said the words he has just mentioned. I will not ask him to withdraw because it would only lengthen the debate but I want to say that the hon. member is quite wrong. My colleague says: "As usual", but I do not want to be so unkind this afternoon. Madam Speaker, I maintain that the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi is quite wrong when he puts such words in my mouth. The hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi is a gentleman as everyone knows.

An hon. Member: Sit down!

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. The hon. member does not realize that this is not a question of privilege, but a matter for debate. The hon. member...

Mr. Prud'homme: On a point of order, Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. The hon. member rises on a point of order and perhaps—

Mr. Prud'homme: Madam Speaker, if you allow me to explain, you will realize that this is indeed a question of privilege.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): The hon. member rises on a question of privilege.

Mr. Prud'homme: The hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi has been putting words in my mouth. If this is not a question of privilege, Madam Speaker, I should like you to tell me what is. I consider the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi to be a gentleman. I am sure he would not leave the House with the impression that, either on radio or on television, I accused again Conservative members of being anti-Canadian or anti-Olympics, since I have not made any statement in the House. I therefore urge the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi, whom I consider a perfect gentleman, not to put in my mouth words I have never said.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. The meaning of "question of privilege" has been defined many times in the House, and if the hon. member will refer to past issues of *Hansard*, he will find that a member may rise on a question of privilege only when his or her ability to perform has been hindered. In this case, we are not dealing with a question of privilege but with a point of order. The hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi.

[English]

Mr. Grafftey: Madam Speaker, I want to clarify one matter that I think is extremely important. I hope the Postmaster General (Mr. Mackasey) is going to enlighten me and many other members of the opposition about the tactics used over the last four days. According to the press, this legislation was withdrawn this week. Then late in the week, under the usual end of week circumstances, it was reintroduced. In term of my vote on the amendments and what happens during the rest of this afternoon, I am taking the attitude that the minister never intended to withdraw this legislation and that it was not withdrawn in fact. The government, with the exception of a little trouble it was having with some of its backbenchers, fully intended to have happen today what in fact has happened.