

Oral Questions

this government in any way away from our fundamental commitment to the official languages policy and bilingualism.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lang: Indeed, the whole purpose of our efforts with the simulation study and the commission of inquiry is to implement safe procedures for air traffic services bilingually throughout the province of Quebec. That is the whole purpose of what we are doing, what we intend to accomplish and what I am still confident we shall accomplish.

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● (1120)

OLYMPIC GAMES**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING
ADMISSION OF TAIWAN**

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, may I direct my question to the government House leader in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister? Because of the preponderant views of most Canadians, that is most Canadians outside the cabinet and the Department of External Affairs, that the Olympic Games should proceed on schedule no matter what any international group may want to call itself, I wonder if the Acting Prime Minister would condescend to let the House and public know the result of the latest negotiations and consultations which are proceeding between the government and the International Olympic Committee?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, discussions have been going on at various levels between the International Olympic Committee and representatives of the government in an endeavour to reach a settlement or compromise on the question of the participation of athletes from Taiwan. These discussions are not completed and I would urge on all in the House the desirability of not creating unnecessary difficulties by anything which may be said in the House today.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, that was hardly a breathtaking answer. I was asking the Acting Prime Minister to tell us what stage the negotiations have reached. Has the government made a proposal to the IOC and has the IOC made a compromise proposal to the government? Surely, the Acting Prime Minister can tell us what is going on and who is taking the initiative.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I do not know about taking the initiative: we took the initiative one year ago with the IOC, when we asked them to consider the implications of this situation; then, when nothing happened, we had to call in the representatives to clarify the Canadian position which we had indicated a year before and on which they had taken no action. We are having the discussions today. There are proposals being made from both sides. We are all hoping that within the next short time a settlement will be reached.

[Mr. Lang.]

**POSSIBILITY OF DECLARING SITE OF GAMES INTERNATIONAL
TERRITORY TO FACILITATE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWANESE**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. When Queen Juliana was in Canada and her second child was being born, in order to ensure that she would have Dutch ancestry, a section of Canada was declared as being Dutch territory. This facilitated the establishment of the required nationality of the child born to Queen Juliana. Will the Acting Prime Minister give consideration to declaring the Montreal olympic site as being international territory belonging to the IOC in order to get around what obviously is a problem that cannot be resolved by the government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I strongly advise the hon. member not to make that a plank in his election platform.

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MULTICULTURALISM**PROPOSED TEACHING OF LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH
AND FRENCH IN SCHOOLS—CONSULTATION WITH
PROVINCES—POSSIBLE FEDERAL SUPPORT**

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the minister responsible for multiculturalism, I will direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the report of the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism recommends that federal funds be made available for the teaching of languages other than English and French, and in view of the fact that the recent non-official languages study indicated support for the teaching of such languages in the public schools, has the federal government undertaken any discussion with the provinces on this matter in order to encourage the setting up of such a program and to discuss in what form federal support can be provided?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows education is in the hands of the provinces. Representations of that kind ought to be made more directly to the provinces concerned. As far as the federal government is concerned, it may be a useful way of maintaining the cultures of the various groups that make up the Canadian population to give support to the teaching of those languages within or without the educational system. As far as the federal government is concerned, we are giving some consideration to the matter.

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PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**USE TO BE MADE OF EAST BLOCK FOLLOWING
RENOVATIONS—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NO EXTERIOR
CHANGES WILL BE MADE**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the quiescent Minister of Public