

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, could we have the business for tomorrow from the government House leader?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I should like to call the government organization bill. After consultation with House leaders tomorrow it may be possible to make arrangements to complete the export development bill. In any event, we will call the government organization bill tomorrow.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

SPORTS—1976 OLYMPIC GAMES—CANADIAN POSITION ON PRINCIPLE OF NO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Mr. John L. Skobeg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, on January 20 I asked the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) the following question:

Considering the firm decision of the International Olympics Committee to adhere rigidly to the principle that there shall not be racial discrimination in sports, can the minister give some indication to the House of the position to be taken by the government on that principle so far as the 1976 Olympic games are concerned?

I suggest it is very necessary that Canada make its position on racist and apartheid policies very clear to the rest of the world, and with that thought in mind I posed the question to the minister. I feel confident that human rights are being violated in many countries. Although we are quite aware of this, it is only in South Africa that these policies are sought to be justified on racial grounds. Canada's disengagement from South Africa should be positively encouraged at all levels by whatever means is open to us as Canadians.

I am sure that the people of the world who are dedicated to upholding the declaration of human rights would like to know what is our position, and I feel we should make our position quite open and clear. Every means should be utilized to make known our convictions against racism and apartheid. One way of doing this is by inconveniencing and embarrassing the white regimes of countries that practise apartheid and racism until they realize that somewhere along the line they must change their policies. We must make our position abundantly clear in so far as racism and colonialism are concerned. One way Canada can do this is to insist rigidly on the principle of non-racial sport.

• (10:00 p.m.)

We have the decision of the International Olympics Committee regarding South Africa, which no doubt will leave Canada in the position of only having to reaffirm this decision. I would suggest that a pronouncement be made by our government stating categorically that we will adhere rigidly to the principle that there will be no racial discrimination at the 1976 Olympic games in Mont-

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real. If this is not possible, I suggest that no federal money should be made available to the 1976 winter games in Quebec. In this way we will be in a much better position in respect of nations of the world. I believe that the Minister of National Health and Welfare will agree to a firm acceptance of this basic condition of non-racism. It will be of interest to all freedom loving Canadians dedicated to the eradication of apartheid, discrimination and racism to refer to the answer this House will, hopefully, hear from the minister tonight.

A news article suggests that the business hangman in the world is in Pretoria, South Africa. I suggest we should make sure that those responsible for these racial injustices do not have the opportunity of joining our 1976 Olympic games. I will be most interested in hearing the response tonight and I am sure all of us are waiting for a reaffirmation of policy in respect of non-racial sports in this country.

[Translation]

Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as the House knows, the federal government rejects all forms of racial discrimination.

With regard to the summer Olympic Games to be held in Montreal in 1976, the federal government believes that such Games are a very important means of bringing together peoples and nations. By asking for and obtaining the 1976 summer Olympic Games, Montreal has tacitly accepted to obey the rules of the International Olympic Games Committee, that is not to tolerate any racial discrimination.

For this reason, the federal government sees in the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal an occasion for all Canadians to show that they have no prejudices for reasons of race, colour or religion.

Let us hope that this answer, Mr. Speaker, will sink into the minds of all Canadians, including the hon. member for Moose Jaw.

[English]

FINANCE—PROCEDURE FOR PRESENTATION OF TAX REFORM LEGISLATION

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, what I like about this "late show" is the sense of expectancy that falls on all members of the House of Commons and those people who have rushed in from this, that and the other thing, including the full attendance, I am sure, of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, all of whom have come from hither, thither, to and fro to see if they can find out anything at this late hour. On occasion I have felt that perhaps the question I had in mind should have been asked and answered during the question period. However, I thought I should not put it at that time but should wait for a couple of hours until the country was really agog and alive.

I find myself here at this hour with a rather simple request of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson). I realize he has more important things on his mind than a simple