

lack of immediate repairs, may soon become slums and permanently irreparable, etc.

• (1740)

These projects are considerably more urgent, but the three levels of government and notably Montreal have no money for them. These problems which I have just described are not included in the priorities of the City of Montreal. Has there ever been a case of a special effort such as the one we are making for the Olympic Games which will last only two weeks?

Mr. Speaker, when we see this situation and ask ourselves how we are going to spend our funds, I say that we are choosing unacceptable priorities, considering the problems facing the city of Montreal.

I think it would be appropriate now for me to quote one or two paragraphs from the study published by the Regional Economic Expansion Department in April 1973 and which is called:

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Economic situation and development possibilities.

Recent trends related to population, industry, transport, finance and a certain number of other sectors indicate that the role of Montreal as a springboard for the economic development of Quebec has decreased.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that the population of Montreal learn the truth. It is not a policy of hiding our heads in the sand which will help us solve these problems. All these studies of the federal government show that the situation, as the hon. member from Laval was saying—I have no doubt exaggerated the situation, but it is nevertheless not optimistic—can be illustrated by another excerpt from page 99 of that study:

Up till the early 50's, Montreal had established itself as the major financial centre in Canada. During the last two decades however, there has been a relative transfer of financial activity from Montreal to Toronto, and this latter town has become the true nervous centre of financial activity in Canada.

Then follow several statistics:

Stock exchange activity in 1971.

Stock exchange transactions are three times higher in Toronto than in Montreal. In addition, there is much less activity on the money market there than in Toronto.

During the last 15 years or so, a certain number of financial institutions have transferred their headquarters to Toronto. There has been, among others, the transfer of the headquarters of 6 of the 18 life insurance companies established in Montreal and of 34 out of the 112 insurance companies other than life insurance companies.

In my opinion, the people of Montreal must be made aware of these problems, and they must be asked whether it is more important to hold Olympic Games which will last for two weeks or to renovate the 100,000 homes in Montreal which will soon be beyond repair?

Mr. Speaker, to the question "Are you in favour of holding Olympic Games in Newfoundland for example? My answer is, of course, I am for holding the Olympic Games anywhere in the world, but when we consider other needs, the conclusion might be a different one. Of course, I would like to have a Cadillac, but if I don't have

Olympic Bill

the money to pay my rent, is my ambition normal? Is dealing with the Olympic Games in this way a good way to govern and to comply with the wishes of the people?

I would now like to speak briefly about the Olympic Games themselves. Exactly what are the benefits they will bring? It will not be like Expo '67 which gave Montreal infrastructures that still remain: the metro, the East-West Expressway, things that develop independently of the Olympic Games. And whether or not the Games are held, the low rental housing programs, for example, will go on. And here I must digress momentarily to say that until now Montreal has never spent all the funds allocated to it every year for low rental housing. Neither has the province of Quebec spent all the CMHC funds allocated for the same purpose.

As far as the Montreal infrastructures are concerned, all projects are being carried out regardless of the Olympic Games, whether it is the metro, dwellings or the East-West expressway. Therefore, what will remain? A 50,000-seat stadium in addition to those already existing in Montreal. And this stadium, according to all the experts, will clearly not be used fully after the Olympic Games. Obviously, it will be impossible to fill every day a 80,000-seat stadium according to the application file in Montreal. As for the shooting range, how many Montrealers will make use of it? At the present time, the greater part of Notre-Dame Island is being destroyed to build a canal for canoe and kayak events, a sport that is not very popular in Canada. Yet, for the sake of two weeks, they will destroy an island that cost \$30 million to the city of Montreal to develop and is not yet fully paid!

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the great disadvantage of the Olympics is that for two years, and until 1976, they will require all the energies of the mayor of Montreal and of all civic officials, when there is every indication economically that there are much more urgent problems, some of which I referred to earlier.

Let us consider what happened in Munich. There were 400 permanent employees and at the end, there were 15,000 temporary employees, excluding the 30,000 soldiers, but this did not prevent the tragedy we all know about. For the Kiel water sports only, there were 60 ships. Likewise, the part of the Games that will take place in Kingston will cost \$5 million. This is very sensible.

Why will Canadians pay directly or indirectly, as the hon. member for Drummond (Mr. Boisvert) said earlier, whether it be through lotteries or otherwise, because the money always comes from the same pockets. Why will we have to spend so much money? To whom is the International Olympic Committee answerable? Who is responsible for the decisions it is making? Do the people know that on each ticket that will be sold in the stadium or for other activities in the cycle racing track, the International Olympic Committee will collect a royalty or a vested interest? Is it known that on the television rights, the city of Montreal will get \$3 million and the International Committee \$9 million?

So there is a vested interest in the gigantic International Committee and here is a group of citizens who is going to impose such a gigantism to our country. For we must not forget that only rich countries can take part in the Olympics. When the federal government says that the deficit for