

ments to the staging of such an event. Another alternative proposed by some is the idea of a regional games, involving a more limited range of nations.

A number of nations, including Canada, are considering the possibility of what has been termed "enhanced national games." These would be what one might term "national super games." Perhaps various sites across the country could be employed to enable the Canadian people to witness the excellence of our athletes in competition. Such an event might include invitations to athletes of other nations to participate, with Canadian athletes, in turn, participating in the national games organized by other countries.

That is a long way of saying that, yes, this government is very concerned about the situation now confronting our Canadian athletes, all of whom have invested a good deal of time and effort in bringing their skills to competitive form.

The questions asked by the Honourable Senator Roblin are precisely the questions we have been grappling with, wrestling with, in recent weeks.

Senator Roblin: Honourable senators, without wishing to appear ungracious—because obviously my honourable friend's heart is in the right place—I have to inform him that this "After you, Alphonse" routine that the government went through in arriving at this decision was unnecessary. To my mind, the Canadian people would have appreciated, and supported in large measure, a prompt statement from the government at the very time it took office. "Pussyfooting" is perhaps an unfair word, and I do not really mean it in its pejorative sense, but it is that kind of hesitation that gives rise to a lot of concern in the public mind.

I appreciate what my honourable friend has said about a national competition. However, in my opinion, such an event would not really do the trick. Our athletes are looking for international competition, and I see no reason why, given the facilities we have around this country, there could not be such competition.

Winnipeg, as an example, has an Olympic size swimming pool at which international competitions could be held. I am sure the government would receive an enthusiastic response from the City of Winnipeg in connection with the use of that facility.

There is no practical necessity in having all events take place at the one site. Indeed, in many cases they are spread around a bit now. Modern communications being what they are, that is no problem.

I would urge my honourable friend to do what I asked him to do in the first place, and that is to take the initiative in terms of establishing alternate games. Certainly, I think I am safe enough in saying that the citizens of the province of Manitoba would certainly be willing to co-operate with the Government of Canada in respect of the Olympic size pool facility at Winnipeg, and I am sure similar inquiries would strike the same responsive chord in other parts of the country.

Senator Perrault: The senator's representations will be closely noted, and all of us in the Senate appreciate the spirit

[Senator Perrault.]

in which these recommendations are offered. Certainly, there is no doubt that there are many Canadian centres which would be willing to host certain events.

Again, I emphasize that the Olympic boycott decision was not taken with undue reluctance. Canada was not dragged into this position "kicking" and "struggling." Indeed, the announcement made yesterday, and its timing, came as a result of close consultation with Canada's friends in the community of nations.

PARTICIPATION OF CANADIAN ATHLETES—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Hartland de M. Molson: Honourable senators, I would ask a further question of the Leader of the Government in connection with the Olympic Games. In the event that, following the meeting of the Canadian Olympic Association, some of our athletes decide to participate, has the government given any thought to cancelling the passports of such athletes?

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): There is no intention at this time to do so. However, athletes who decide to participate in the Moscow Games would receive no financial assistance from the government.

VISIT TO CANADA OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE

Hon. Heath Macquarrie: Honourable senators, mindful of the importance of the visit today to Canada of Secretary of State Vance, and recalling the enormous interest in meetings between American and Canadian statesmen exhibited by the government members some months ago when they were in opposition, could the Leader of the Government indicate what points will be put forward by the Canadian government in discussions with Secretary of State Vance and, in particular, but not exclusive of, points in reference to the developing situation in the Georges Bank, which is causing anxiety to our fishermen.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, there are a number of issues on the agenda for discussion, including questions of importance to those living on both coasts of Canada and at points between. However, I do not feel free at this time to particularize with respect to that agenda. If possible the registered information will be obtained and communicated to honourable senators.

AIRLINES

APPLICATION OF EASTERN PROVINCIAL AIRWAYS TO EXTEND SERVICE

Hon. G. I. Smith: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government. I assume he is aware of the recent decision of the Canadian Transport Commission in refusing the application of Eastern Provincial Airways to be allowed to fly from Halifax to Toronto. Assuming he is familiar with that decision, is he aware whether Eastern Provincial Airways has launched an appeal from that decision with the Government of Canada?