

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

February 2, 1973

The House met at 11 a.m.

[Translation]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

## MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES

First report of Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates—Mr. Leblanc (Laurier).

[Editor's note: For text of above, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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[English]

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

## CONTROL OF GASOLINE PRICES—EFFECT OF ACTION BY COMPANIES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek the unanimous consent of the House pursuant to Standing Order 43. The urgency and pressing necessity of this matter arises, so I am informed, from present and combined activity by some, perhaps all, of the major oil companies to change thousands of contracts with retail gasoline outlet dealers. The new contract provides that ownership of all gasoline delivered by these distributors to the retail dealers will remain with the distributors instead of the retailers. This means that control of consumer prices for gasoline will shift from the retailer to the supplier. With present concern over the cost of living at the stage where price controls may be necessary, the effect of such private and concentrated control over the price of a product that is a necessity to millions of Canadians requires action by this House. With unanimous consent, I would therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser):

That the matter hereby raised be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs and that it be an instruction to the committee to report back to this House as quickly as possible with its recommendations.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is not unanimity. The motion cannot be put.

[Translation]

## SPORTS

## MONTREAL OLYMPIC GAMES, 1976—STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, hon. members are aware of all the attention which this government brings to the financing of the Montreal summer Olympic Games of 1976.

More than four years ago, this government has clearly defined its position, namely that we would not make any special financial contribution to these games. In letters dating as far back as 1968 and since then, on the occasion of numerous public statements, Mayor Jean Drapeau has indicated that besides certain current federal-provincial programs, no financing was required on the part of the federal government.

While the organization of the games is the responsibility of the City of Montreal, the federal government has taken an interest in them by reason, on the one hand, of the international character of the undertaking and, on the other hand, of financing methods considered by the City of Montreal and the Olympic Games Organization Committee (COJO).

In fact, hon. members know that on announcing its \$310 million budget last week, COJO proposed that except for the amount of \$18 million, the total revenue expected be provided through fund-raising programs.

Although such programs are intended for the Canadian and the foreign public at large rather than the federal taxpayer as such, nevertheless they require the approval of federal authorities.

Besides the expenses covered by the City of Montreal budget, we must also expect that the Canada Olympic Games will cause disbursements for the various federal departments in the discharge of their usual responsibilities.

We are considering two main points: First, the government seriously wonders whether COJO can balance its budget. In November last, we received a copy of that budget and according to the appraisal conducted by federal officials, a deficit can be expected.

Mr. Speaker, may I stress that this is our own point of view. I know that the Quebec government and the Montreal municipality probably hold different views, which I respect. As concerns the cost of an event that belongs to a still distant future, of course, a possibility of disagreement exists but, as I said, we fear that a deficit might occur and this is one reason among others why we have taken precautionary measures with which I will deal in a moment.

Secondly, we fear that some unexpected contingencies might cause a considerable increase in the cost of the games, for this happened on the occasion of previous