

The Olympic Games

Olympic Games and of Expo 67. This is why we intend to do everything possible to help the games' organizers maintain the cost at the lowest possible level, as they themselves have stated they will.

Such, then, are the main facts that led to my statement before the House last week, to the effect that we wanted assurance that, if there were a deficit, it would be made good by a body other than the federal government. This guarantee was to my mind essential if Parliament was to be called upon to look into the action suggested by COJO with regard to plans to secure funds, plans that the City of Montreal calls plans for self-financing, which are more likely to call upon the general public than on the taxpayer as such.

• (1110)

[English]

Mr. Speaker, the government has now received a letter from the Prime Minister of Quebec containing a clear assurance that his government would not seek financial assistance from the federal government should a deficit arise.

The government has also received letters to the same effect from the city of Montreal and from COJO. With the permission of the House, I should like to table these letters now. The government considers that the agreements by Premier Bourassa in his letter, and by Mayor Drapeau and Mr. Rousseau in theirs, provide the assurances we have sought. Since we believe a deficit is a clear possibility, these assurances are important. These letters guarantee that any deficit would not be laid at the door of the federal government.

The government is now willing to act upon the request of the city of Montreal and COJO concerning the special issues of Olympic stamps and coins. And we are continuing discussions with the government of Quebec, the city of Montreal and COJO on the best way of answering COJO's request for an annual lottery.

Before I conclude, I would like to make very clear the nature of the federal outlays that may be involved in meeting the requirements generated by the Olympics for normal federal services. As I indicated earlier, these are not included in the budget presented by COJO.

One large cost item is the Olympic village. Between 2,000 and 3,000 dwelling units are contemplated. Funding by CMHC could range from \$26 million to \$54 million, depending on the number and costs of the units and the amount of commercial financing. We feel it is quite reasonable to consider that this could be handled between now and 1976 under the normal CMHC allocations for public housing, which go out to all provinces, since the share which has gone to the province of Quebec has been running at some \$100 million annually. After the games, the Olympic village would become part of Montreal's housing stock.

Second, we must recognize that the large influx of Olympic participants and spectators will put particular pressures on various services which in the very nature of things would have to be provided by the government of Canada, such as personnel from the RCMP, the Canadian armed forces and customs and immigration. It is obvious

[Mr. Trudeau.]

that if the Olympics are held in Montreal, as they will be now, the federal government cannot stand aside and say: "We will not be involved in questions of security or customs or immigration." Yet, these are implied costs in the sense that they would not have occurred had the games not taken place. We anticipate this might involve some \$20 million in increased costs, and we are determined to maintain a strict control over such costs.

Finally, there is a further cost increment which would be incurred if the CBC assumed the role of "host broadcaster" providing the basic television service at the games. In this event, net costs to the crown corporation would be an estimated \$25 million. Discussions are continuing on whether the CBC would or should undertake this function, and naturally the government will have to reach a decision in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government has a strong and legitimate concern over arrangements for the 1976 Olympics. This concern does not, however, diminish the warm welcome which will be extended to the Olympic games and its participants by the government and by Canadians generally. It is a challenging undertaking and I am sure that all Canadians wish it well.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I begin by using the words with which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) ended his statement, that this is a challenging undertaking one that all Canadians wish well. Speaking on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I can say that we certainly wish it well and we wish to be co-operative.

I must say that I have some concern following the Prime Minister's statement. One reason, though not the only one, why I wish the games well and wish to co-operate is that I believe that Canada's good name, as well, of course, as the good name of Montreal and the good name of the people of Quebec, is involved in this enterprise. I point out that in 1969 the Prime Minister wrote a letter to Mr. Brundage of the International Olympic Committee in which he said:

The government of Canada warmly supports the application of the city of Montreal for the honour of being host to the 1976 summer Olympic games. I therefore offer you a hearty welcome and extend to all who are associated with the Olympic games a cordial invitation to visit us in Montreal in 1976.

At that time the Prime Minister made it clear within Canada that the government was not committing itself to direct grants to support the Olympic Games, but I believe the international Olympic community and other countries would be justified in feeling that the government of Canada was going to see that these games were warmly supported, were going to come off and come off satisfactorily and in a creditable way. I think I must also say that following that letter I do not believe that the Prime Minister has discharged his responsibility in allowing things to drift along the way they have drifted. So we have been confronted with this last-minute emergency, and a decision as to what we should do to make it possible for these games to be arranged and in fact take place. I have to say, Sir, that we have no firm assurance today that everything has been arranged.