

Jean Drapeau, Mayor of Montreal :

“Our installations are insufficient !”

Opponents of the Olympic Games and the Olympic ideal do not miss any opportunity of calling attention to what they call the “failure of Montreal”. Figures in the red are put forward and publicised, often with obvious bad faith ; they speak, without proof, of financial bankruptcy and social upheaval as an aftermath of the 1976 Games.

The city’s Mayor, Mr. Jean Drapeau is of a very different opinion, as can be seen from a letter he has just sent to the IOC, an extract of which he has given us permission to publish.

“For me, the Olympic period which started in September 1963, during a

first visit to Lausanne, will not come to an end with the handing over of the flag in 1980. I have lived with the Olympic spirit for seventeen years, a spirit which will continue to persist with all the results I had hoped for. Our installations—all our installations—are already considered insufficient. The whole population has turned with enthusiasm to sport. Amateur sport has won its place in the daily activities recognised by the authorities, both public and otherwise. This, naturally, is a source of joy for ‘me.’”

