

At the banquet at the town hall in Stockholm.

By designation of Mr. Edström, President of the International Olympic Committee, Dr. J. L. Morrill, President of the University of Minnesota and member of the Minneapolis invitational delegation from the United States, was requested to speak on behalf of the delegations which were present in Stockholm to extend invitations for the 1952 Olympic Games. Dr. Morrill's remarks were in response to the address of welcome by the Council-President of the City of Stockholm, at the distinguished banquet in the celebrated Town Hall on the evening of June 20, 1947. Dr. Morrill spoke, as follows :

MT. Council-President Anderson, MT. President Edström, Our Generous Hosts of the City of Stockholm, Distinguished Guests, Gentlemen and Friends -

It is an honor of which I am deeply sensible to enjoy the privilege of responding to the cordial welcome of the city of Stockholm, on behalf of the delegations from other countries who have made long journeys to this beautiful

city in order to extend their invitations for the entertainment in 1952 of the XVth Olympiad.

Five European nations and six American cities are the constituency, as I understand it, whose sincere thanks for generous Swedish welcome and hospitality I have the honor to express.

For some of us, this is our first visit to this ancient city, the Capital of Sweden for more than seven centuries—a very old city and yet one cosmopolitan and brightly modern in every respect. How we have been impressed with its charm in the blend of Old and New World appeal! How we have been thrilled to see this magnificent Town Hall with its tower rising proudly to the sky, the triple gold crowns glowing in the twilight! How we have enjoyed the sight of its busy people thronging the streets or waving from the boats that move upon its picturesque waterways—always friendly and hospitable to your visitors!

Those from other countries whom I represent tonight will join me, I am sure, in an enthusiastic salute to the City of Stockholm. We salute your City as representative of the cultural and scientific eminence of the Swedish people, respected throughout the world. We salute the City because one of its most highly respected citizens, the Honorable J. Sigfrid Edström, holds the high post of President of the International Olympic Committee. We salute the City as the world-cynosure, at this moment, of amateur sportsmen and men minded, therefore, toward international understanding and cooperation through keen but comradely athletic competition — men minded toward the goal of “friendship through contest”.

Surely, in this troubled time of world-disorganization following world war, of international uncertainty and anxiety, the Olympic ideal has new meaning. Surely there is need of some concept, non-political and generously disinterested, to organize the good will of all peoples. Surely, the Olympic idea—rooted in antiquity—offers such a concept, superior to disputatious local loyalties, inspiring to all nations and to all men of good will.

I am recalling this evening that after the First World War, in a time of disillusionment and discouragement, the British writer, John Galsworthy, gave utterance to a significant statement :

“ Sport ”, he said, “ which keeps the flag of idealism flying, is perhaps the most saving grace in the world today—with its spirit of rules kept, and regard for the adversary whether the fight goes for or against. ”

It is in that spirit, indeed, that the delegations from other countries here tonight have come to this historic capital, hopeful that they may have the great honor of entertaining the Olympic Games in 1952. They seek to serve the Olympic ideal. They seek to dignify, through respect for competence in competition, the concept of comradeship through contest of which I have spoken. They cherish the opportunity to welcome the chosen representatives of many nations and to help build, thereby, the ramparts of world friendship and good will.

Having been myself engaged, almost until this moment, in lively competition on behalf of my own city of Minneapolis for the privilege of acting as host to the XVth Olympiad, it is frankly somewhat difficult for me suddenly to reverse my mood, to change my psychology, and to speak justly and generously for my competitors as well ! Perhaps this honor has been given me, among many visitors more distinguished, because of my University connection—since it is well understood that the tradition and obligation of universities the world over is to be objective and disinterested. Or perhaps a representative of Minneapolis and Minnesota was selected from among all the nations and cities here present because it is well known that the State of Minnesota represents one of the greatest centers of Swedish culture and immigrant-population in the world and because the University of Minnesota is recognized as perhaps the foremost American center for the study of Scandinavian history and culture.

But let me say, not only for Minneapolis but for all of the other visiting delegations—we have come here in the spirit of the Olympic games themselves, the spirit of hard but friendly competition ; and may the best team win !

We thank you, Mr. President, for your kind welcome and for the distinguished hospitality of your far-famed City.

Gentlemen—to the City of Stockholm : to its good fortune always, and to the imperishable glory of the Swedish Nation !