

## A Message of the President of the International Olympic Committee

(Sent to the National Olympic Committee before the Cortina Winter Games, this message keeps its value for all future Games.)

Avery Brundage, President of the International Olympic Committee, has sent to the Organizing Committee of the VIIth Olympic Winter Games the following message addressed to all National Olympic Committees, inviting them to scrupulously conform to the Olympic idea in certifying the amateurship of the various teams of athletes participating in the next Cortina Games :

*Final entry blanks are being sent to you at this time by the Organizing Committee for the VII Winter Olympic Games. One of the fundamental principles of the Olympic Games is that they are restricted to amateurs. These entry blanks must be signed by the competitor, who declares that he is an amateur and fulfils the conditions stipulated by the Rules of the International Olympic Committee. They must then be countersigned by his National Federation, which guarantees that the competitor's affidavit is true to the best of its knowledge. The National Olympic Committee must then certify its correctness by endorsing the entry blank.*

*In past years it has been alleged that non-amateurs have competed in the Olympic Games. If this is true it is due to the fact that non-amateurs have been certified by National Olympic Committees, since only compe-*

*titers certified by National Olympic Committees approved by the International Olympic Committee may enter the Olympic Games. We ask you therefore to exercise due caution in signing these entry blanks.*

*The International Olympic Committee has for some time been greatly disturbed over the tendency in some places and in certain sports to use the Olympic Games as a stepping-stone to a career in professional sport. This is, of course, a gross misuse of the Games and indicates a complete misconception of the Olympic Movement.*

*All National Olympic Committees are requested to screen their competitors most carefully and to eliminate not only the ones who are not amateurs but also all those who are known to have the idea of capitalizing on their participation in the Olympic Games. It is one of the responsibilities of National Olympic Committees to be certain that all competitors representing their country are amateurs complying with the Olympic Rule, which we quote below for your convenient reference :*

*An amateur is one who participates and always has participated in sport solely for pleasure and for the physical, mental or social benefits he derives therefrom, and to whom participation in sport is nothing more than recreation without material gain of any kind, direct or indirect, and in accordance with the rules of the International Federation concerned.*