

Concerning Boxing

**Mr. Philippart, the Belgian Deputy
has been K. O. in his own Country**

Sometime ago, as we recall it, the Belgian deputy Mr. Philippart launched a campaign in Belgium advocating the suppression of boxing in that country. Last year, his proposal was adopted by the Board of Justice at the Chamber of deputies, but later on, in an open meeting the Chamber decided that it would be advisable to consult the Ministry of Public Health on the matter. These discussions took place at the very moment when the City of Brussels was offering herself to the International Olympic Committee as a candidate for the allocation of the Games of the XVIIth Olympiad in 1960. This was a most unpropitious time, however, this controversial campaign did not influence in anyway the result or the decision of the International Olympic Committee as to the choice of the city. Mr.

Philippart's proposal recommending the abolishing of pugilism in Belgium has just been turned down ; actually the Board of Justice of the Chamber has rejected this motion by 11 votes to 7. In spite of the vehement protests of its promoter, Mr. Philippart's proposition was rejected as the result of a report presented to this Board by Dr. Wostyn. This report did not conclude in favour of the abolishing of pugilism, but recommended the adopting of a strict ruling preconizing the compulsory wear of a helmet and of the "Everlast" belt as well as the compulsory two minutes repose between the rounds, etc... Moreover, another Board was appointed with the mission to draw up eventually a new bill prescribing a set of rules concerning boxing while taking possibly Dr. Wostyn's opinion into consideration.