

Mr. Avery Brundage says...

(written before the Melbourne Session)

Many times the International Olympic Committee has been assailed and charged with neglect because it is said that non-amateurs have been permitted to compete in the Olympic Games. There is also the allegation that in certain sports the Games are being used as a stepping-stone to a professional career. If this is the case, it is certainly not the fault of the International Olympic Committee which has an amateur rule that is quite clear. Entry blanks, certifying that the competitor is an amateur according to Olympic Rules, must be signed, not only by the individual himself but also by his Federation and his National Olympic Committee before he can participate.

Typical of these criticisms of the International Olympic Committee, is an article which appeared in the *Paris Figaro* last year after the International Olympic Committee meeting in that city, under the caption "Nouvelle devise olympique : statu quo quoi qu'il advienne", from which the following quotation is taken :

(Translated from French)

The Olympic slogan remains 'Citius, Altius, Fortius', but the one of the International Olympic Committee should be 'Let us maintain the statu quo whatever happens...' As long as the accepted tendency is to let things remain as they are and that one has chosen to look at the world of sport with closed eyes, it is doubtful if it will be possible to go "Faster, Higher, Further".

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They readily agreed that several sports which appear in the programme as "compulsory sports", (more particularly football, cycling and boxing) are out of place in the Programme of the Games.

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A uniform rule of amateurism applied to the various sports would also contribute to clear up the situation, but how is one to handle such a highly inflammable material ?

Under Olympic regulations, and individual who intends to compete as a professional is not and never has been eligible, since from the moment he makes that decision he is obviously

participating to enhance his value as an entertainer and not "solely for pleasure" etc. as the Olympic Rule has always specified.

Already last year, all National Olympic Committees were notified, not only by the International Olympic Committee but also by both the Organizing Committees for the Seventh Olympic Winter Games at Cortina d'Ampezzo and for the Games of the Sixteenth Olympiad at Melbourne that they should "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". The results at Cortina were not too happy.

Now that the International Olympic Committee has decided to take more positive steps to keep the Games amateur and thus prove that it is not following a policy of "statu quo quoi qu'il advienne", there is a great clamour, mostly of course from those whose oxen are being gored.

The public respects and supports the Olympic Movement because it considers that the Games are amateur and exist only because of the contributions of time and energy by all the thousands of participants, officials and athletes alike, and because they believe in the policy of the International Olympic Committee that neither individuals, organizations nor nations shall be permitted to profit from them. Once the people decide that the Games are becoming commercialized and are nothing but an enterprise to develop and build up material for professional promoters to line their pockets, the Olympic Games are finished.

If there has been laxity it can be charged to the National Olympic Committees which have the obligation to see that their delegations comply with Olympic regulations. The new entry form (which has not been imposed for the Melbourne Games. *Ed.*) which has aroused so much comment was considered to give them assistance in screening their prospective competitors. Obviously, it can only be a statement of intention at the time it is signed, but future developments will disclose whether or not the signer has been honest.

The International Olympic Committee is not particularly concerned whether it is used or not, since it has no control over individual competitors. It does, however, have control over National Olympic Committees and it must insist that these Committees exclude professionals, which include those whose intentions are to compete professionally, from the Olympic Games.