

OUR READERS WRITE US

(The Editor disclaims all responsibility for the opinion quoted below)

Rousing appeal to the members of the International Olympic Committee

by Albert R. Mayer,
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At Sofia, on the occasion of its Session, and acting on the proposal put forward by the Winter Games of 1960 Organizing Committee, the International Olympic Committee decided to eliminate bobsleigh from the Olympic Programme. This decision seemed absolutely plausible in view of the fact that only two national federations guaranteed their participation : Rumania and the United States Federations.

As a result of an inquiry made since then by the Executive Board of the International Bobsleigh Federation, it was discovered that the questionnaire sent at the time by the Squaw Valley organizers was addressed to the National Olympic Committees instead of the National Federations concerned. Some National Olympic Committees replied negatively on their own authority without consulting the National Federations of Bobsleigh.

A new inquiry among the Bobsleigh National Federations, which was launched by a neutral party, namely Mr. Morgan, president of the American Olympic Committee, revealed the fact that up to date, *twelve* countries had

entered for the bobsleigh events at Squaw Valley.

The International Bobsleigh Federation which held its Session at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, last January, decided to ask the International Olympic Committee to go back on the decision it adopted in Sofia and to ask it to include bobsleigh in the Games' Programme for 1960.

I appeal urgently to all my colleagues in the International Olympic Committee to give effect to this request which is all the more justified that bobsleigh is a true AMATEUR sport according to the definition conceived by the International Olympic Committee. It would be unfair to eliminate it. Ever since 1924, bobsleigh has been included in all the Winter Olympic Games.

The organizers of Squaw Valley have expressed their willingness of building a bobsleigh run. Mr. Hale, president of the Squaw Valley Organizing Committee has confirmed this promise at Garmisch when he attended, last February, the World Bobsleigh Championships, an event which has been witnessed by 35,000 spectators.