

PRESS REVIEW

WELL-PHRASED DEFINITION...,
says *L'Équipe*

'Amongst the pieces of news received in May was one sent from Vienna, which had obviously not caught the eye of the editorial offices.

'Nevertheless, it too contains a certain proportion of good sense. During the assembly of the International Catholic Federation of Physical Education in Vienna (Austria), Count Jose Antonio Elola-Olaso, President of the Spanish Olympic Committee, gave his definition of amateurism, as follows :

THE PERSON WHO AFFORDS HIMSELF A LIVING THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF SPORT IS A PROFESSIONAL.

THE PERSON WHO RECEIVES NO MONEY, EXCEPT IN COMPENSATION FOR THE BROKEN TIME CAUSED BY HIS TRAINING OR BY HIS PARTICIPATION IN A COMPETITION, IS AN AMATEUR.

'This formula is an attractive one. It is sufficiently clear, and at the same time sufficiently supple. It traces the line dividing the waters, and if it does not provide for the complete elimination of sham amateurism, which was. is. and ever shall be, it has at least the advantage of officially authorizing a state of affairs which already exists.

'This formula, of Spanish origin and published in Austria, is doubtless not entirely new. What. however. is new and therefore of interest, is the fact that it should have been expressed by the President of a National Olympic Committee. It will, therefore, find echo in Lausanne, the seat of the International Olympic Committee and in Chicago, the home of Mr. Avery Brundage.

'Sport cannot hold itself aloof from the gigantic pacific competition which is prevailing in every field. But, if this is to be fair competition, then the chances must, at the outset, be equal in all countries. This formula propounded by the President of the Spanish Olympic Committee - which it is to be hoped will receive support - goes some way towards the equalization of these chances.'

SPORT'S BIG NEWS IS THAT ATHLETES ARE OUR
BUSIEST AMBASSADORS

That is what *Sport Illustrated* appearing in U.S.A. (May 19 edition) says :

'In the shrinking world of today, the surest passport for intercontinental travel is athletic

ability. Russian wrestlers recently toured the United States and Russian weight lifters are here now. American basketball players have been to Moscow and Tiflis and Leningrad, and the favorites of the gallery at the Masters golf tournament were two small and cheerful Japanese pros. A cricket team from Pakistan performed in the eastern United States and American skiers people the snowy slopes of Europe. Since the end of World War II. sport on the international level has mushroomed tremendously in defiance of cold wars and iron curtains.

As athletes crisscross the world in usually friendly competition, most of them are looking ahead to 1960, when the Games of the XVII Olympiad are scheduled for Rome. It looks like the greatest of all Olympic Games and Rome, a prime target for tourists, has preparations well in hand for probably the most overpowering influx of visitors since the barbarian invasions !'

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If our great American colleague expressed himself in these terms. he omitted to say that the Olympic Games have certainly brought together sport lovers of over ninety nations and this regardless of race, religious faith or political convictions.

Count de Baillet-Latour (the president of the International Olympic Committee at that time) proved this when he set about reprimanding a certain Chancellor of the Reich and this happened before the Games of 1936 !

After participating three times in the Olympics, the Russians gave up competing in the Games and this ever since 1912. It is only since 1952, that the athletes of the U.S.S.R. made their reappearance in the Olympics when they sent a team to compete in the Games at Helsinki and they have been competing ever since. It is certainly thanks to the perspicacity of the International Olympic Committee that world sport became unity serving the same ideal : the creation of a great brotherhood between the athletes of every nation who all hope for peace, mutual understanding and harmonious relationship between nations. Although the International Olympic Committee has not yet entirely succeeded in fulfilling its task in this respect, it believes firmly in this aim, yet all problems are not solved from the point of view of true Olympism. In order to uphold the prestige of the Olympic Movement which is striving for peace, we require the necessary support of the leaders of the International Federations as well as those of the National Olympic Committees. More and more we notice that the

Olympic Movement constitutes a whole composed of three elements : the International Olympic Committee, the International Federations and the National Olympic Committees. Each of these elements assumes a particular task or mission and collaborates in order to serve the same aim respectively. in administrative, technical and in sport capacity. It is thanks to this close and harmonious collaboration that many problems can be solved, not only in Olympism but when dealing with world sport in general.

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At the Munich Session of the International Olympic Committee, which is to take place

at the end of May in 1959, the Delegates of the International Federations will join the members of the International Olympic Committee in order to be present when the cities are to present their candidatures for the organizing of the Olympic Games of 1964. The Delegates will thus be able to express their opinions from the technical point of view and this in itself is a consideration of prime importance which the International Olympic Committee will certainly not fail to take into account when it is going to make its final choice in the course of that Session. Previous to this, these same Delegates will meet the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee and this Conference will also take place in Munich.