
THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION HERBERT ELLIOTT AND UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Certain newspapers raised the point that as soon as the 1960 Games are over, Herbert Elliott is to become the beneficiary of an athletic scholarship with an English University. This scholarship will be offered to him by SHELL, the firm where he is employed. Wishing to elucidate the matter, we made inquiries from the Director of this Australian firm Mr. Lewis Luxton who happens to be one of the members of the International Olympic Committee for Australia. Mr. Luxton has been kind enough to give us the following explanation which he gave us permission to publish herewith. We believe that this will be sufficient to dispel and reduce to nought all the wrong allegations which have been published on this matter :

Melbourne, 5th February, 1959.

'Dear Chancellor,

'Thank you for your letter of the 18th January in connection with an announcement that Elliott has been awarded a scholarship to attend a British University.

'As it happens, Elliott is an employee of Shell Chemical (Australia) Pty. Ltd., of which I am a Director.

'For some years now it has been the policy of the Shell Group of Companies in Australia and in other parts of the world to pick out young men on their staffs who show promise of being able to carry heavy responsibility in the future and award them scholarships to go to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

'Elliott, apart from his undoubted ability as a distance runner, has a first-class academic record and has shown every sign of possessing those talents which are so necessary to carry a man to high executive position. It is to develop these latter talents that he has been awarded the scholarship - not to further

his running career or as a reward for what he has already done for running.

'After receipt of your letter, I spoke with Mr. Ronald Aitken, who is President of the Australian Amateur Athletic Union, who informed me that his Union sees nothing unusual in any Australian firm awarding a scholarship to one of its own employees with a view to developing such employee's potential.

'For your own information, I know that Elliott was offered numerous athletic scholarships to go to American Universities, but rejected all of them as it is his desire to establish himself in the petro-chemical industry as Elliott the executive, not Elliott the athlete.

'I hope the foregoing reassures you and that you do accept my statement that this is not an athletic scholarship as is known in the U. S.

'Yours sincerely,

Sign. : *Lewis Luxton.*

Editor's note : We earnestly hope that this explanatory note will give food for thought to those who take pleasure in spreading false rumours. Thus in another line of thought, but still dealing with the case of Mr. Elliott, a French pictorial paper published the following statement in an insidious article to which we shall allude later on. It says : 'Elliott acts as an impostor who puts his personal property under cover of his wife's name, although he has a legal separation from her, he carries on an Import-Export business under false pretence in order to avoid taxations !'

But the actual fact is that Elliott is a bachelor, has never been married and works for *Shell* ! Comment are needless...
