

57th Session in Rome

ON THE OCCASION OF THE GAMES OF THE XVII. OLYMPIAD

Friday	August	19, 1960:	Executive Board Meeting.
Saturday	August	20, 1960:	Solemn Opening Ceremony of the Session.
Sunday	August	21, 1960:	Free.
Monday	August	22, 1960:)	Morning & afternoon sessions.
Tuesday	August	23, 1960:)	
Wednesday	August	24, 1960:	Morning session - afternoon free.
Thursday	August	25, 1960:	Opening of the Games.

They are now condemned jointly and severally to pay the plaintiff the sum of one Franc by right of damages as well cause the present judgement to be published at their own expenses in five newspapers of the Seine chosen by the plaintiff, they are ordered to pay costs. The Court also incriminates the firm of 'Editions Sportives Françaises' in view of the fact that it is declared by common law, responsible for the pre-cited. (The reasons adduced by the Court follow. *Ed.*)

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Whereas the written imputations of Chassaignon were all the more reprehensible in view of the fact that as a sport journalist, *he could not plead ignorance of the fact that the International Olympic Committee and its president do not possess the power nor are they to decide of the status of amateurism of such and such candidate competing in the Olympic Games.* (We underline this, *Ed.*) Indeed, the Olympic ruling stipulates that in the last resort, only National Olympic Committees are qualified to engage the competitors and this after the candidate has signed his declaration of amateurism and that this statement has been countersigned by the National Federation of the sport he practises. Therefore, the fact that such or such professional has managed to compete in the Games on a false declaration of amateurism can only cast a slur on this athlete's honour and on those who encouraged and helped him to lie. *It is unfair to impute and presume that this fraud has been encouraged or even TOLERATED BY THE President and the members of the International Committee who, on the contrary, intervened on several occasions and penalized such frauds that were known by them.* (We underline, *Ed.*)

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Whereas the guilty intention of the author of the article can be understood from the libellous implications themselves, and the character he intended to give them, that the evidences given by the witnesses he caused to be heard for his defence failed to prove his sincerity.

Whereas in these circumstances, it falls due to the Court to declare that *Verrière* and *Massot* as Editors of this newspaper are proven guilty on the charge of libel precited which is denounced in article 32, paragraph 1 of the law of July 29th 1881, and *Chassaignon* is charged with aiding and abetting in his quality of author of the libellous article.

Whereas *Mr. Brundage*, with good reason, vindicates his rights for legal redress in atonement for the moral injury caused him by the precited persons; that it is right to condemn them to pay the one franc right for damages claimed for by the plaintiff and to order the publication of the present judgement according to the restrictive clauses which are to be settled in the agreement.

GROUND'S UPON WHICH THIS JUDGEMENT HAS BEEN PASSED

VERRIÈRE AND *MASSOT* proved guilty of the charge of libel against a private party by publication of an article through the press, *CHASSAIGNON* is guilty of aiding and abetting in the said offence and the application of articles 29 (paragraph 1), 32 (paragraph 2), 42 and 43 of the Law of July 29th 1881, and 59 of the penal Code, condemn them to pay each a fine of 100,000 frcs.

Condemn the said *VERRIÈRE*, *MASSOT* and *CHASSAIGNON*, to pay jointly and severally to *Avery Brundage*, plaintiff, the sum of one franc for right of damages.

Order the publication of an extract of the present judgement in three newspapers of the Seine department, these to be chosen by the plaintiff and at the expense of the guilty parties, the cost of each of these insertions must not exceed 60,000 frcs.

Condemn *VERRIÈRE*, *MASSOT* and *CHASSAIGNON* to pay all costs jointly. No prescription of incarceration applicable in this case.

Declares the firm: 'Editions Sportives Françaises' responsible in the eyes of the law for their appointed agents: 'Verrière, Massot and Chassaignon'.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAW-SUIT

Mr. Armand Massard, president of the French Olympic Committee and Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee, was summoned as witness in the libel case and had to appear before the Tribunal. When its President asked him to take the oath in the usual manner, by raising the arm and swearing to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, *Mr. Massard* has a good repartee when he exclaimed: 'In the eyes of the law, are witnesses never free of suspicion since they are asked to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Cases of recognized perjury calls for the application of severe legal measures. THE SAME THING APPLIES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE!'

GRIM HUMOUR

On the occasion of the libel case brought by the President of the International Olympic Committee against a Paris Sport Weekly Magazine which surpassed the limits of controversy, *Mr. Armand Massard* who acted as guide to *Mr. Avery Brundage*, escorted him through the intricate windings and turnings of the Palais de Justice in Paris.

In order to while away the tedious hours of waiting, the President of the French Olympic Committee accompanied by the Secy. of the French Olympic Committee, Mr. Pierre Morel, took Mr. Brundage to lunch in a restaurant typical of the place in the Palais de Justice itself. To intensify the

interest of the feast... Mr. Armand Massard informed his guest that this was the very place where the criminals sentenced to death partook of their last meal on earth!

No wonder President Brundage enjoyed his meal all the more after that...

