
Address of Governor Edmund G. Brown



56th Session of the International
Olympic Committee, *San Francisco*

For P.M.'s release, Saturday, February 13, 1960.

— It is a high honor to welcome you to this 56th Session of the International Olympic Committee. To the visitors, the delegates and representatives, and the athletes from foreign lands, I extend our heartiest hospitality. California is yours. We have been many months and even years in preparation for you. We hope you like what you will see.

Californians are happy to be host to the Winter Olympics because we share the universal esteem for these great contests. But, beyond this, we have a secret reason, and I must now make full confession. The Games afford us an opportunity to demonstrate what many have always doubted, namely, that we actually do have snow in the land which Spaniards long ago named 'hot oven'. It is an open secret, by the way, that about a month ago we were getting worried about the success of our demonstration. But I can report that the ski slopes of our mountain country now wear a lovely white mantle that we will match against any garment from the Adirondacks to the Alps.

Once again the Olympic Games fulfil their quadrennial mission of bringing men and women together from many lands in friendly competition. Once again they remind us that we are all members of a world community: most of us heirs to the culture of ancient Greece, all committed to the rules of fair play, all sharing the same love of skill, and grace, and physical prowess.

When the games were held in ancient times, the incessantly warring Greek States declared a truce and laid down their arms. The Games have thus come to express more than our love of athletic competition; they symbolize our yearning for peace.

Next week more than 800 athletes of diverse racial and national origin, and diverse religion and ideology, will engage in vigorous and spirited competition. Thirty-four countries are participating. As we watch we can hardly escape the thought that this is the model after which the nation-states might pattern their relationships. And if, as we all hope, destructive international conflict does give way to peaceful competition, surely the

Olympic Games will be one signpost on the way. After all, at the present time, this is the only activity in the world run by a completely international governing body.

We are told that the ancient games expressed and quickened the consciousness of fellowship among the scattered folk of the Greek race. Let us hope that they play the same role today among the scattered folk of the globe. Never has such a fellowship been more needed.

When all this is said, we would not, for a moment, forget that the Olympic Games are athletic contests. It is difficult for us to believe that, a century ago, there was no organized amateur athletics and, indeed, no formal physical education. We have become so accustomed to athletic spectacles and to the availability of physical education facilities that we take them for granted. Actually, these are recent developments brought about through the

efforts of organization such as those that are members of the U.S. Olympic Association. And, in the Olympic Games themselves, we have the supreme and climatic expression of organized amateur athletics.

In the end, the Games belong to the players. Not all can win. But I am sure that the beauty of our Sierras, the warmth of good fellowship, and the thrill of spirited competition will provide ample reward to every participant.

In the end, participation in an Olympic contest is its own reward. And this, as the guiding geniuses of these Games must know, is the supreme proof that their effort has been crowned with success.

Californians are proud that this State has been selected as the site of the VIIIth Winter Olympics. In behalf of the people of California I once again welcome our visitors to this country and this State. May your sojourn here be a happy one.