

# Report of Mr. Avery Brundage

*president of the International Olympic Committee, to the members of the International Olympic Committee, the International Federations and the National Olympic Committees on the proposal of the Olympic Committee of U.S.S.R. for a reorganization of the International Olympic Committee. (See our Bulletin Nr. 67.)*

With the announced objective of augmenting the success of the Olympic Movement, the Olympic Committee of U.S.S.R. has suggested that the International Olympic Committee be enlarged to include *ex officio* all Presidents of National Olympic Committees and all Presidents of International Sport Federations. No one can quarrel with this objective, but the proposed reorganization would make such a drastic and revolutionary change that it must be studied with utmost care.

In establishing the International Olympic Committee as the supreme authority of the Olympic Movement, the Baron de Coubertin was most careful to arrange that it should always be completely free, independent and autonomous, and to insure its impartiality. Without these precautions, in my opinion, the Olympic idea would never have spread so rapidly and so far, nor with such phenomenal success.

Presidents of International Federations represent primarily their sports; Presidents of National Olympic Committees represent primarily their countries. Under the present system these people meet with the International Olympic Committee at intervals and have an opportunity to present their views. These views are carefully considered by the International Olympic Committee, whose members represent solely the Olympic Movement rather than their countries or their sport.

When a man is chosen for membership on the International Olympic Committee, he pledges his undivided allegiance to the Olympic Movement. A man elected to represent another organization would not be free to take such a pledge.

When the Olympic Games were revived in 1896 there were no National Olympic Committees and very few International Federations. At the beginning, therefore, the International Olympic Committee itself had not only to adopt and enforce the general policies required, but also to arrange for the business of organization of the Games, for the participation of the different countries, and for the technical supervision of the events. It was soon discovered that this was too much for one organization and provision was made for an organizing committee to handle the purely business arrangements, for National Olympic Committees to arrange for the participation in the Games, and for International Federations to provide the rules, regulations and technical supervision. The International Olympic Committee reserved to itself, general supervision and control of the policies to be followed. It would be difficult to improve this arrangement.

The International Olympic Committee is hardly a perfect organization and it can probably be improved, but any changes made that disturb its independence and its impartiality would result in disaster. Its undivided devotion to the high ideals of the Olympic Movement, together with the strict enforcement of the principle that there shall be no distinction of race, religion, or politics, and that the Olympic Games must be amateur, with no profit to competitors, officials or promoters are undoubtedly the reasons for the tremendous success and high standing of the Olympic Movement today. Without the right to select its own members, the International Olympic Committee would soon lose both its independence and its impartiality, qualities which are essential to its success.

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