

editorial

" The mark of great religions and the obligation of great leaders", wrote eighty-five eminent personalities from the world of thought and science, including twenty-one Nobel Prize-Winners, " is to recognize that changing conditions call for a different application of the unalterable moral values ".

The International Olympic Committee could not and does not intend to try to evade this obligation.

But the path is especially difficult to choose in view of the complexity of the problems raised by the increasingly rapid evolution of our society. Once one refuses to solve amateurism by professionalism, racial discrimination by political discrimination, or precarious autonomy by voluntary abdication of rights, once one refuses to submit to the loudest pressures which are not always the wisest, or the most numerous, and once one attempts to impart a movement rather than be swept along with it towards fatal mutations, one can never be too careful in one's search for solutions and their application.

For, when all is said and done, what are these arm-chair renovators really advocating who write " down with the institutions ! " — institutions which most of them would join with delight if they were invited and who, not being so, have not even a counter-programme to propose ? We only knew of one counter-programme which, because it really considered all the problems, might possibly have proved effective. It is the one thought up by Jean-François Brisson (large extracts of which we published in our " Bulletin " No. 90, under the title " Looking ahead ") who recommended, for what is commonly called the

salvation of Olympism, a new rather austere but very fine way, an idealist's solution conceived by a practical man, a return to Olympia, making a completely fresh start... But the others, the rebels, those in fact whom one would have expected to echo Brisson's renovation scheme and who did not even give it mild applause, showing clearly that to be constructive is not their main concern ? With some, there are but mercenary claims, with others short-term views, publicity seeking, submission...

Olympism, which exists beyond and above people, needs men to accomplish its second aim : to safeguard the individual in the age of the masses, now that its first aim — the practice of sport integrated into modern life — has been largely achieved.

That is why, in February of last year, President Brundage appointed several committees for the purpose of carrying out important short and long term investigations, in which the reorganized I.O.C. secretariat should take an active part by enquiries and research, in cooperation with the heads of the International Federations and the National Olympic Committees.

These men and women will, we may be quite sure, know how to perform the required work of coordination between the most varied tendencies, to abandon such and such a position that the scale of the undertaking, when all is said and done, renders minor, but at the same time to show themselves implacable regarding the main principles reaffirmed, on which a new contract will have been signed, not for an Olympiad only, but for several Olympiads, by all those who stand for youth, fraternity and sport.

The editor.