

PRESIDENT AVERY BRUNDAGE FACES THE PRESS IN MUNICH

"We want Games that are clean, pure and honest, free from politics and commercialization."

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE, President of the International Olympic Committee, kept repeating this phrase like a leit-motiv throughout the press conference he gave on January 28th in Munich, where he was the guest of the municipality and the Organizing Committee of the 1972 Olympic Games.

The problems raised by amateurism, by the future of the Winter Games - in particular as far as Alpine skiing is concerned - as well as by the spread of Olympic competitions in general, were the main subjects covered.

GAMES FOR THE "COMPLETE" MAN

Questioned as to the possibility of a change in the International Olympic Committee's ideas on amateurism in view of the general trend of modern life, the President restated his position very clearly :

"Sport is a vocation. There exist two categories of sportsmen: those who practise sport for money and those who go in for it for the pure love of it. The Olympic Games are reserved for the latter. We do not want to create a class of young people prepared for nothing in life but sport. The object of the Olympic movement is to develop the "complete" man.

THE CONCERN CAUSED BY THE WINTER OLYMPICS

The President recalled that the evolution of Alpine skiing *"has for a long time been of concern to the International Olympic Committee"*. The whole question will be discussed at the next session of the International Olympic Committee in Warsaw, in May 1969, during the examination of

the report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Winter Games, presided over by Jonkherr Herman A. VAN KARNEBEEK, member of the International Olympic Committee for the Netherlands. Furthermore, he considered that the Winter Games *"have lost sight of their objective, which is to be a festival of youth and snow."*

"Without criticising the French organizers of the 1968 Winter Olympics, who performed a remarkable task", he added: "In Grenoble, for example, we had five separate world championships. Two hundred and forty million dollars were spent on ten days of sport, that is too much, The Olympic Idea was exploited commercially, we do not like that."

After going on to point out that half of the hundred and twenty National Olympic Committees recognized by the International Olympic Committee were not interested in winter sports and three-quarters of them had no mountains of their own, the President of the International Olympic Committee voiced the complaints levelled against Alpine skiing: financial backing by firms, rivalry between the latter, commercial advertising of various equipment, etc. *"Obviously, skiing down a mountain is a form of sport, but not a major sport", he said. "To do it for six or eight months out of every year turns it into a circus act. Is it sport or is it business? Certain skiers are perhaps happy enough to turn themselves into sandwich-men, but what has this to do with sport?"* Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE also criticized the F.I.S. proposal to allow the national ski federations to subsidize racers *"for that does not fit in with the Olympic Ideal."*

Also invited to give his opinion on the "purity" of Nordic skiing, Mr. BRUNDAGE replied that *"the conditions are not so flagrant for it is not surrounded by nearly so much publicity."*

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