

## Free Comment

### *Why rejuvenate the IOC ?*

To tell the truth, I am no longer young, but the weight of years does not weigh heavily enough on my shoulders for me to classify myself as "old".

In the IOC, I have always had the greatest admiration for those whom I would call "our doyens" and I find it hard to understand those who suggest rejuvenating this body by elimination. Eliminating those who have devoted their time, their intelligence and their money to the IOC and to sport, simply because they have grown old, is a conception I have difficulty in grasping and one to which I object most strongly.

The IOC is above all a representative international organization; it is the symbol of an idea and an ideal, the Olympic idea and ideal.

The IOC has never concerned itself with technical analyses, which are the responsibility of the international federations. What does the age of a man matter then when it comes to championing an "idea", an incomparable greatness, something sacred: the Olympic idea, the idea of amateurism in sport ? This is what the IOC is championing; now, such an idea can be defended at any age, even better in fact when one is old with the experience of a lifetime behind one.

It is not the "young", it is not our "elders", who have made the greatness, the splendour and the ideal of the modern Olympic movement. It is their personality, it is their connections, their contact, their influence throughout the world, which make the "glory" and the "prestige" of the IOC today. "All honour and gratitude to our doyens" I say. Until their death, we shall follow them we shall back them we shall remain faithful to them.

For us, their presence in the IOC is the symbol of authority, integrity and the very existence of the IOC.

In Switzerland, the gratitude due to a man of merit accompanies him to the grave, whatever his age.

*That's the way I think !!*

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