

PRESS CONFERENCE

of Mr. Avery Brundage

- Question: 1. What is the opinion of Mr. Brundage on the work accomplished by Commission II?
2. Does the Executive Board consider that the problem of eligibility is a question of prime importance?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

This has been received by the Executive Board with gratitude for the diligence with which Mr. SIPERCO and his colleagues have covered the subject. All problems must be cleared through the Executive Board. We have a Permanent Commission on Eligibility, on Legislation and on Finance, and all questions concerned with these subjects must also be cleared through the Permanent Commissions. The Permanent Commission on Eligibility is headed by Mr. WEIR and Mr. SIPERCO is a member of this commission. The Commission has been working very hard here in Amsterdam, and the report reached the Executive Board only yesterday. It will be judged by the Executive Board at its first meeting. Everyone knows the urgency of this question, and the Executive Board will proceed to an ultimate conclusion as soon as possible so that a final report can be given at the Luxembourg meeting, next year. The question of eligibility is the foundation of the Olympic Movement. The future of the Games depends on the eligibility of its contestants. The International Federations govern sport every day of the year, not just for the Olympic Games. These International Federations should have in their regulations a paragraph which states that their contestants must also comply with Olympic regulations, and we hope all of them will have such a paragraph. The idea of the IOC in its position of leader in the world of amateur sport is that if it were possible to devise a rule which would meet with the approval of all

the International Federations for the universal majority, it would be the greatest step ever in the world of amateur sport. The IOC has strived towards this aim. When a conclusion is reached, discussions will be held with the International Federations to work out something which will meet with universal acceptance. It is very confusing when the International Federations have one eligibility rule for everyday sport and a different rule for the Olympic Games. The IOC is trying to close this gap, and we realise that this is a very urgent problem, and it has our immediate attention.

Question: What is the opinion of the President on the withdrawal of recognition of the South African Olympic Committee?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

The withdrawal of the SANOC after years of discussion was settled by the IOC this afternoon, and I follow its conclusions. We received a letter from Mr. ORDIA who presented the case of the North African Committees. "Mr. HONEY, IOC member of South Africa indicated his resignation to the IOC. It is the wish of the North African Committees that Mr. HONEY reconsider his resignation".

Question: When the President retires in Munich 1972, would it be a good idea to leave the Alpine Skiing question open for his successor. This question has been open for many years and has just come to a head recently?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

The question of Alpine Skiing has been aggravated by what happened at Grenoble. The sooner a settlement is reached, the better. The Executive Board has met with the representatives of the International Federations, who have admitted the irregularities in their sport, and have promised to cooperate to clean up their sport to comply with the regulations.

The programme of skiing in the Games, 1972 Sapporo, will be observed very closely by the IOC, and care will be taken that the rules are observed properly.

Question: Bewildered by the reference to Zurich. Your claim was that Zurich had refused to stage the Games. Mr. KELLER's claim was that the reason for this was that Zurich was unfit for an Olympic centre. Do you still hold the view that you expressed last Saturday?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

The statement was that the voters of Zurich had voted 145.000 to 40.000 that they want nothing to do with the Winter Games. I was quoting paragraphs and headlines from the newspapers, which are an illustration of the effect made on the public. This is what we are concerned about.

Question: Mr. KELLER says that this is not the case, that the voters of Zurich simply could not hold the Winter Games?

Mr. Avery Brundage

We are talking about different things. I am talking about reports in the newspapers, which reported that Zurich had refused to have anything to do with the Winter Games because they considered that the Olympic Games represented a degeneration in sport. It is what the public reads and does not like. I am not in a position to know what the people of Zurich think, but I do know what is printed in the newspapers. My remarks are based on what was printed in the newspapers.

Question: At the same time, there was a plebiscite in St. Moritz and Sion to determine whether the populations of these two cantons were willing to hold the Games. Both communes spoke in favour of the Games?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

The canton of Berne also refused an invitation, and anyway, we are not talking about the action taken by these

two communities, we are talking about the stories printed in the newspapers throughout the world and the effect they have on the prestige of the IOC.

Question: During 18 years in office you have run many campaigns and have had much success. We assume you have two years to run before retirement. What are your main objectives in these two years?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

My objectives are the same as always, to promote the Olympic Movement according to the rules and regulations laid down by the Baron de COUBERTIN.

Question: Do you think that when you retire, the whole aspect of the Olympic Games might change, depending on who takes over as President, concerning amateurism and commercialism?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

I cannot predict what will happen. The President has to follow the directions of the IOC, and I think that is what I have been doing. The IOC feels the same way on the subject, and I assume that a new President will also follow the wishes of the committee of which he is head.

Question: Is it possible that the Olympic Games might follow the same lines as tennis?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

I do not think such a policy would be approved by the Committee, but I cannot tell what will happen in the future.

Question: In addressing the International Federations on Saturday, you spoke about the Alpine Skiing. So you still hold the same view?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

I still hold the same view on Alpine Skiing as it is being conducted at present. It is worse this season than ever before. This is admitted by the International Ski Federation officials, who have promised to cooperate with us and who realise the great danger in which their sport finds itself. We have had a meeting with them and they have promised to control their sport according to Olympic standards. We will see what happens in Sapporo. An amendment to rule 54 about display of advertising has been adopted which reads as follows:

"The use or display of any clothing or equipment such as shoes, skis, handbags, hats, etc... marked conspicuously for advertising purposes in any Olympic venue (training grounds, Olympic Village, or fields of competition), by participants either competitors, coaches, trainers, or anyone else associated with an Olympic team in official capacity, will result in immediate disqualification."

Question: When the Olympic teams arrive, will they have to take off their baggage labels, as they would be advertising the air-line?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

I expect that whoever is in charge of this will exercise a little common sense.

Question: DO you think that times have changed so quickly that the only way for the Olympics to survive is to follow the pattern set by the International Tennis Federation, where amateurism disappears completely and everyone is an athlete without discrimination?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

Such a situation would be the end of the Olympic Games. This subject has been covered. The existence of

the Olympic Games depends on their amateurism, and without the idealism, they will never exist because of the tremendous expense connected with them, much of which has been covered by volunteers, members of the International Federations, judges, officials, members of National Olympic Committees, members of the IOC. If these people had to be paid, there would be no Olympic Games. They will never survive if the Games are open to individuals who are there for financial reasons.

Question: In attacks in the past, where sham amateurism has been discussed, you have asked for proof before the IOC can act. Today you have been quoting newspapers on Alpine Skiing. Has your attitude towards newspapers changed?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

No. The public reads the newspapers and absorbs the information given to it. When information is turned in one direction, the public is going to follow the opinions expressed which is shown by the action of Zurich.

Question: Do football players have the same desire for victory as in the Olympic Games when money is the prime consideration?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

If player's livelihood is football, we have no objection to that. It is a part of the entertainment business. The Olympic Games is an idealistic institution. We ask for your assistance in this endeavour of ours. The press can be one of our best helpers. We are trying to keep the Games clean, pure and honest.

Question: Can you give us your personal opinion on the withdrawal of recognition of the South African Olympic Committee?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

My personal opinion is that the IOC, with some 70

members, has been charged with the duty of examining this question, and has come up with the answer, and as President of this organisation, I support it.

Question: A moment ago, you said that you relied on help from the newspapers. Would you reconsider the statement you made about newspapers the other day? "Newspapers rely on advertisements from skiing manufacturers..." You were criticised because they do not agree with your opinion.

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

I do not think that many journalists appreciate what we are trying to do. We are trying to keep Olympic sport clean, pure and honest, and I think we should be supported by the press. I am sorry if I offended anybody. I would like to impress on the journalists our intentions and solicit their support.

Question: You attack Alpine Skiing, yet there is no mention about track and field events in Summer sports.

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

I mentioned the shoe scandals which happened in Mexico, and which the International Federations are trying to cure. I have just read the resolution adopted on this subject.

Question: Has the modus vivendi been worked out as regards the International Olympic Academy?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

The IOC is much interested in this Academy, and has patronised it in the past. We were recently informed that the Greek Government had stated that no foreigner could serve as head of the committee. Prince George of Hanover has been President of the Academy and this eliminated him from consideration. It has also created a problem in that the control of the Academy is entirely in Greek hands, and

the IOC has nothing to do with this operation. It asked for our patronage which could only be given after consideration. A special Commission was formed to work with the Greek representatives and to try to find a solution. The Session of the Academy this summer is to draw up a programme to be supervised by this Commission, and the IOC is to give its patronage for the summer Session, and then will try to arrange a permanent solution. The Greek Government states that it is eager to continue with the Academy along the lines in which it has been conducted in the past. The IOC cannot patronise something unless it knows what it is going to do.

Question: You spoke about the Commission on Eligibility, and this Commission has admitted the principle of broken time. This is recognised by the International Ski Federation. What is admitted in Alpine Skiing would not be admitted for other sports?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

The International Ski Federation have promised to submit for our approval rules which are still under consideration, and they have promised to cooperate with us to see that the ski events in Sapporo in 1972 are conducted according to the Olympic rules. The question of eligibility has not yet been settled. It will be settled no doubt before Sapporo but obviously we can not have a special rule for each sport. The rule of broken time has been resisted not only by the IOC but by most of the International Federations for many years. The IOC adopted some time ago a policy that in cases of hardship, payment should be allowed through the National Olympic Committees and the details of such advances are still under study and will be eventually worked out by the Executive Board in conjunction with the International Federations.

Question: You attack Alpine Skiing, where athletes are earning up to \$60,000 a year although being considered an amateur by the International Ski Federation, but we rarely hear you comment on professionalism in Eastern countries, where there is in fact no such thing as amateur sport. How can we continue along these lines with so many countries?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

This question is similar to that of the athletic scholarships in the U.S.A. It is difficult to take action without proof. For eligibility in the 1972 Games, we are going to try to enforce our rules by asking the contestants to sign statements which will reveal whether they are subsidised or not.

Question: It is the general opinion that only a man of means can be President of the IOC. Is it impossible that, if a man cannot afford to be such a leader, there could be a salary for this position?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

The IOC would not approve a salary for this, but might approve expenses, if it had any money.

Question: Has Munich been asked to invite Rhodesia to participate?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

No charges were submitted against Rhodesia. The situation at the moment is that they will compete in Munich if there is a mixed team.

At the moment there is a mixed team.

Question: Some people are making a lot of money, but there are other sports champions who are not making money. Why does the IOC choose Alpine Skiing?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

There is more publicity in Alpine sport than in any other sport. We have asked the International Ski Federation to ascertain their intentions, and the ISF have promised to cooperate because they want to keep their sports

on the Olympic Programme and the International Ski Federation realise that they must conform to Olympic regulations to do this. The ISF realised that their sport, as an amateur sport, was in great danger at this time. As for other sport, we adopt the same policy and try to enforce regulations in the sports. The ISF were not controlling their sports properly.

Question: Following the decision on South Africa, what is the position of the International Federations vis à vis the IOC; that is, the Federations which still recognize South Africa?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

This a question over which we have no control.

Question: What is the attitude of the IOC with regard to the Federations which did not expel South Africa?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

Our jurisdiction is only over the Olympic Games, and Federations which did not expel them will still be able to participate in the Olympic Games.

Question: As a result of the decision to expel SANOC, would you think that every International Federation now has the will not to allow South Africa into their world competitions because the Olympic Movement does not recognise it.

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

Some Federations have withdrawn recognition from the South African Federation and others have refused to do so. I cannot predict what they will do in the future.

Question: Is there any precedent for a member resigning by way of protest and still being prevailed upon to come back?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

Mr. HONEY has not resigned. He has stated that he will think about it. There is no precedent to my knowledge. The IOC would like him to carry on and I will read a letter received from the representatives of the North African Committee.

Question: What is the personal opinion of the President on the choice of Denver for the 1976 Games in view of the fact that the ski jumps will be up to 45 minutes away?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

As President of the IOC, I am not entitled to have a personal view.

Question: The Federations who do not expel South Africa will not be able to compete in the Olympic Games?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

The International Federations can expel SANOC or keep it as a member but since the NOC of South Africa is no longer permitted to participate in the Games all National Federations which constitute the NOC may not participate in the Games. It is the National Federations who cannot compete. All entry blanks signed by a competitor must be endorsed by the National Federation, then endorsed by the National Olympic Committee. Since there is no NOC, there can be no endorsements, so no one in South African can compete.

Question: You have ruled that any amateur who competed against a professional would be contaminated.

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

I did not rule on this question at all, and certainly did not rule that an amateur would be contaminated. We were asked by the International Ice Hockey Federation what

would happen if they permitted professionalism in the World Championship. Using the analogy of the Football Federation that those who participate in the World Cup are not permitted in the Olympic Games, I suggested that the IOC when the subject came up would take the same stand. The Ice Hockey must decide not to permit professionalism.

There is no rule forbidding amateurs to play against professionals - this happens in charity events, etc. It may be approved if it is for an honourable purpose, but when the World Championship is open to professionalism the IOC would not be happy.

Our position is now that the SANOC is not entitled to send entries to the Olympic Games. This eliminates everyone from South Africa. The question has not arisen. I do not know what the reaction of the IOC would be but as we are concerned only with the Olympic Games, we are confined to that.

Question: What is the President's personal opinion as to why Moscow was not accepted by the IOC as a place for the Summer Olympic Games in 1976?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

The President has no personal opinion.

Question: Would Moscow have a chance of the Games in 1980?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

The IOC does value and give some consideration to persistence. Montreal has given several invitations, and this was taken into consideration.

Question: You have threatened to retire before. Are you actually going to do so in 1972?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

I have never threatened, and yes, I am retiring in 1972.

Question: Can you be persuaded to continue?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE

No.

President BRUNDAGE informed the meeting that the next IOC meeting would be in Luxembourg next year from the 13th to the 18th September. He also informed the meeting of the invitation accepted from Barcelona to hold the following meeting after the Games of the XXth Olympiad in Barcelona.

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