

82nd IOC Session

We present below the three addresses made at the opening ceremony of the 82nd Session of the International Olympic Committee on 9th February 1980. The addresses appear in the order followed during the ceremony.

Remarks by Robert J. Kane, *President of the United States Olympic Committee*

The Lord Killanin, the Honorable Secretary of State, and gentlemen of the International Olympic Committee, this is an historic occasion meeting in Lake Placid for a second time during the celebration of the Olympic Winter Games. The Olympic Winter Games have enjoyed a remarkable growth since the IIIrd Olympic Winter Games were conducted here 48 years ago.

Contrast 1932 and today. The IIIrd Olympic Winter Games attracted a scant 300 athletes from 17 different nations participating in only five sports with nineteen events.

As we prepare for the opening ceremony in connection with the XIIIth Olympic Winter Games, it is expected that there are more than 1,200 men and women athletes, from 37 nations, participating in seven different sports embracing 38 events,

This is still a wonderful opportunity for the youth of the world to gather in the spirit of fair competition designed to test the individual mettle of these sportsmen and sportswomen who have

been training perhaps the greater part of their lives for an opportunity to participate in the Olympic Winter Games.

The United States of America has the rare privilege of hosting the Olympic Winter Games for the third time. Those of us who follow the Olympic Winter Games revel in the progress, in technical aspects as well as in sports improvement. I do not believe that we have as yet reached optimum performance in any of the sports on the programme.

All of us have been excited about the fantastic times that have been recorded in the training sessions for both bobsled and luge—a tribute to both improved technology and more talented athletes. The sportsmen and sportswomen in these two sports typify and epitomize the Olympic ideal—the modern ideal rising from the ruins in Olympia equal competition under conditions of fair play.

With deep humility I quote from an observation of the late founder of the

Modern Games, Baron Pierre de Cou-
bertin : "Peace would be furthered by
the Olympic Games... but peace could
be the product only of a better world ; a
better world could be brought about
only by better individuals ; and better
individuals could be developed only by
the give and take, the buffeting and
battering, the stress and strain of fierce
competition."

Those 1,200 sportsmen and sports-
women preparing for the competition
beginning in two days understand,
perhaps better than anyone, that sports
can and must be played for fun and
enjoyment... and that with devotion to
the sport, the reward will take care of
itself... the philosophy of the amateur
rather than that of materialism.

The entire world today is focused on
the deliberations of this august body.
Those of us in the Olympic movement

hold in highest regard the work of your
Committee. On this occasion we are
praying that with the strength of
character among your own membership
that you will be guided into making the
right and proper decision.

Thank you for permitting me to make
these remarks from the bottom of my
heart. Nothing comes easy in this world
but those men with the character and
conscience to face stern issues do have
an opportunity to find the solution to
every problem. We have confidence
that you will come up with a solution to
the problems you will be discussing for
the next two days.

R. K.

