

Latin America is at the beginning of what I believe will be a long, honorable and beneficial program of amateur sport activity. I urge you to organize properly to manage this program. The organizations in each country in the various sports should join their respective international federations and not only join but also participate in their activities. At the last meeting of the International Amateur Athletic Federation I recommended that a South American country be represented on the council and this suggestion was followed so that for the first time someone from this continent is on the governing board of this important Federation. I realize that it costs a great deal of money to send delegates to meetings in Europe. It should not be too difficult however to send one delegate to represent all Central America or all South America or all Latin America.

The first attempt to bring together the organizations of the Western Hemisphere was held in nineteen hundred and forty when a Pan-American Congress was in Buenos Aires. Some of the countries here had representatives at that Congress. It was decided to hold the first Pan American Games in Buenos Aires in nineteen forty two. These Games, as you know, had to be postponed and they are now, to be held in nineteen fifty.

I expect to call the second Pan-American Sport Congress next year in Lima at the time of the Bolivar Games. Notices will be sent in due time and I hope that every country in the Western Hemisphere, including all these represented here tonight, will be there to discuss problems of mutual interest, including preparations for the Olympic Games of nineteen forty eight and the Pan-American Games of nineteen fifty.

If I may be permitted a suggestion, I think you should have a permanent Committee of experienced men like Senor Manuel Roy, Raphael Iglesias, and others that carries on from year to year to manage these Games under rules and regulations which you should adopt in order to prevent misunderstandings. I personally think your program is too long. We limit the Olympic Program to fifteen days. Sport, after all, is not the main business of life, and it should not be allowed to interfere with the main business of life. By the way you should not allow these Games to be called Olympic Games, that word is restricted to the Games which are to be held in London in nineteen forty eight.

Sport occupies a most important place in our life today, and rightly so. When I speak of sport I mean, of course, amateur sport for so-called professional sport is not sport at all, it is business. Sport is fun, play, recreation, it has nothing to do with business, commerce, or money-making of any kind. We all know that many of the most important lessons of life can be learned on the athletic field where good sportsmanship prevails. The athlete finds that he has to depend on his own efforts for success. He learns that thought, dreams and ideas must be transmuted into action in order to produce results.

Here too, is a high level of democracy found in few other lines of endeavor. In many democratic countries, with the passage of time and with changed conditions, the people have strayed far from the original aims, a government of the people, by the people and for the people, where all have equal opportunities and equal rights, but on the fields of amateur sport now as always, by the way nature of things, the athlete who can run the fastest, or who can jump the highest will win the prize regardless of political creed, social standing, wealth or religion. It is for these sound reasons that the position of sport in our life today is so secure. And I can tell you that never were the leaders of amateur sport more determined to keep this enviable position.

At the recent meeting of the International Olympic Committee with the representatives of the great International Federation in Switzerland, the following statement was issued :

" The delegates of the International Amateur Sport Federations, assembled in Lausanne, for the first time after the world war, on the third of September, nineteen forty six, together with the Executive Committee of the I. O. C. reaffirm their devotion and allegiance to the highest principles of amateur sport and its promotion throughout the world in full conformity with Olympic ideals, excluding all political and commercial influences. They also jointly declare their determination to resist with all their strength any attempt to undermine their work. "

The world is sick and in a turmoil. People are confused and bewildered. Many strange theories, queer philosophies and curious political doctrines are being promulgated. Perhaps the antidote may be found on the playing fields where good sportsmanship, which is nothing more or less than the Golden Rule, prevails.

The Olympic movement, gentlemen, is fifty years old, but it has only made a good start. Not until, by precept and example, we bring the people of the world to a realization of the fact that only when the spirit of fair play prevails, not alone on the fields of sport, but also in the greater arenas of commerce, of industry and of politics will it be possible to exist peacefully and to develop fully the potentials of this wonderful world in which we live.

I apologize for taking so much of your time. If there are any questions which you should like to ask, I shall be glad to try to answer them. Thank you.

Montgomery

s'adresse à la jeunesse du monde

Dans un message adressé le 2 avril 1947 à la jeunesse de toutes les nations, le maréchal Montgomery a déclaré que la boxe constitue un excellent entraînement pour préparer les adolescents à gagner la bataille de la vie.

« Le sport de la boxe, a-t-il déclaré, développe le courage, le contrôle de soi, la coordination rapide du corps et de l'esprit, et toutes les qualités nécessaires dans la bataille de la vie. »

Le maréchal qui s'adressait aux correspondants de la presse étrangère à Londres a exposé ses conceptions sur l'éducation et sur la formation des « hommes de caractère ».

« Aucune nation, a-t-il déclaré, ne saurait réaliser de grandes choses si elle néglige les fondations spirituelles de sa jeunesse ».

L'éducation religieuse, la vie de famille, et l'apprentissage de la discipline collective dans des clubs de jeunesse constituent selon lui les éléments essentiels d'une bonne formation.

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