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## TALKING POINTS

### COMMISSION ON OLYMPIC SPORTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1975

- 1 -

I. A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU. I

WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT YOUR GOALS: TO OVERCOME THE

PROBLEMS THAT HAVE HINDERED AND HURT AMERICA'S AMATEUR

ATHLETICS FOR SOME 50 YEARS.

2. YOU HAVE A TREMENDOUS JOB BEFORE YOU. MANY  
GOOD PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS IN THE PAST  
BUT FAILED. HOWEVER, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO  
REALIZE THAT AMATEUR SPORTS' JURISDICTIONAL DIFFERENCES CANNOT  
AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

IT IS OUR JOB -- YOURS AND MINE -- TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT  
THOSE DIFFERENCES AS QUICKLY AND AS FORCEFULLY AS WE CAN.

3. BUREAUCRATIC BICKERING HAS HELD US BACK IN  
OLYMPIC COMPETITION . . . HAS HINDERED THE GRASSROOTS  
DEVELOPMENT OF ATHLETES ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY . . . AND HAS  
HARMED OUR INDIVIDUAL ATHLETES IN ANNUAL COMPETITION  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

IT IS TIME TO CHANGE DAMAGING SELF-INTEREST OF A FEW INTO  
COOPERATION THAT WILL BE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF ALL THE  
AMERICAN PEOPLE.

4. OUR PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO SEE THIS COUNTRY REPRESENTED INTERNATIONALLY WITH OUR BEST ATHLETES. YOU AND I HAVE THE DUTY TO SEE THOSE ATHLETES ARE PUT ON THE FIELD. I AM COUNTING ON EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU TO HELP RIGHT THE WRONGS OF THE PAST.

5. BECAUSE THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT TIME, YOU WILL NOT HAVE MUCH DIRECT IMPACT ON THE MAKE-UP OF OUR 1976 OLYMPIC TEAM. HOWEVER, YOU MAY HAVE A VERY GREAT INDIRECT IMPACT ON THE MAKEUP OF THAT TEAM.

6. THERE IS A TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY INVOLVED IN THE SELECTION OF OUR 1976 OLYMPIC ATHLETES. YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO AFFECT GREAT CHANGES IN AMERICA'S FUTURE AMATEUR ATHLETICS. THOSE CHOOSING OUR OLYMPIC TEAM NEXT YEAR SHOULD NOT IGNORE YOUR FEELINGS.

7. COMPETITION IS DEEP-ROOTED IN OUR SOCIETY. IT IS AT THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THIS REPUBLIC BECAUSE COMPETITION MEANS FREEDOM TO COMPETE. THAT IS THE SPIRIT AND HEARTBEAT OF AMERICA.

- 10 -

I KNOW YOU WANT THE BEST WHEN AMERICA TAKES THE FIELD.

I KNOW YOU WILL GIVE THE PROBLEMS BEFORE YOU YOUR BEST

EFFORTS. ALL AMERICANS WILL THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT

VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN

FROM: PAUL A. THEIS

SUBJECT: Commission on Olympic Sports

Talking Points

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: \_\_\_\_\_

12:00 noon, Tuesday, September 9, 1975, The White House

SPEECHWRITER: Jack Casserly

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