TALKING POINTS

COMMISSION ON OLYMPIC SPORTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1975

- 1 -

I. A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU.

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.
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.
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
EDITED BY: Paul Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:
Scheduling Office

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