

OBJECTIVES OF CONFERENCE

"While I would not wish to prejudge the results of these discussions, I am hopeful that agreement may be reached on the establishment of a federal-provincial committee at the deputy-minister level so that continuing consultation can be maintained on the joint aspects of the programme. In this connection, you will recall that the Act provides for the conclusion of agreements with the provinces for a period up to six years under which the Dominion Government can share the cost of provincial programmes 'designed to encourage, promote, and develop fitness and amateur sport'.

"In addition to expediting this area, we have scheduled the first meeting of the National Advisory Council for February 5 and 6. As far as my Department is concerned, the Council cannot be convened too soon.

"In the period since the federal legislation was passed by Parliament and even before, we have continued to receive numerous suggestions as to the programme's development. There have also been a number of requests for grants, particularly from sports organizations with immediate needs. By far the majority of these communications involve matters which we feel should be considered by the National Advisory Council, and I would expect that they will occupy most of the Council's time in its initial deliberations. Certainly, if the requests for financial aid are to be dealt with under our appropriations for the current fiscal year, steps will have to be taken at an early date.

GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

"In this connection, one of our major problems has been the matter of making grants to teams who wish to compete in international sports events this summer. We have had quite a few requests of this type and are anxious to have them dealt with as soon as possible. In some cases, however, action had to

be taken even before the legislation was placed before Parliament.

"For example, subject to the approval of Parliament, the Government announced a grant of \$30,000 to assist Canada's team in the 1962 Commonwealth Games to be held in Perth, Australia. In addition, a grant of \$10,000 was provided to the Canadian Olympic Association to help it carry out surveys in its selection of the most suitable Canadian site for the 1968 Winter Olympics. More recently, we have given further aid for aerial surveys and technical assistance so that the strongest possible bid can be made on behalf of Banff, the site selected by the Association.

"Although we should have preferred to have submitted such matters to the National Advisory Council before action was taken, the time element made this impossible. However, these steps appear to have been very well received across the country as concrete evidence of our determination to encourage Canadian participation in international sports efforts. This is all to the good but I do hope they have not given the impression that the new programme is designed solely for the making of champions.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES

"As I have tried to make clear on many occasions, our view is simply this. While international and national competition should receive direct encouragement, the cultivation of consistent competence and ability in such competition requires a long-term and comprehensive effort, as does the realization of our objectives with respect to the encouragement of fitness and recreational activities. We feel that these various aspects are essentially in agreement and can best be developed through programmes at the community level which are well conceived and which will encourage regular participation in healthy, stimulating activities by the great mass of Canadians and not merely by those who have 'star' potential..."

...taken into account. "First and foremost the Council was to... citizen's committee in the original announcement... the Prime Minister had envisaged the whole project... 'people's programme' and it seemed to us that... only a group appointed on the basis of their qualifications as individuals would be best equipped with the... NO GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION... application of this criterion meant, for example, that no level of government as such would be represented and you will have noticed that neither my Department nor any other federal agency is included... for the provinces or municipalities occupy a place on the Council. Of course, in view of the fact that... federal-provincial co-operation is an important feature of the new programme, some arrangements had to be made in this regard and I will be mentioning these... another consequence of the 'citizen's approach' was the fact that the government, none of the many fitness and amateur sports organizations in Canada would be represented as such on the Council... "Next there was the problem of geographical representation. The Act called for at least one member