

## GOVERNMENT AND ATHLETICS

Addressing the Canadian Sports Advisory Council in Ottawa on January 20, regarding legislation by the Federal Government to implement a programme aimed at "encouraging the youth of Canada in amateur athletics", the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, said, in part:

"...The latest event in the programme's development is, of course, the setting up of a National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport. Under the federal Act, this Council has a key function in advising the Minister of National Health and Welfare on various aspects of the programme's operation. The Minister may refer to the Council such matters as he sees fit, and vice versa.

### TASK OF SELECTION

"As you can imagine, the task of selecting the initial members of this group proved to be an extremely difficult one. I am inclined to think that, even with the wisdom of a Solomon, it probably would not have been possible to draw up a list completely satisfactory to everyone concerned. Inevitably, our choices have provoked comment and so I propose to take a few moments this morning to fill you in on how the National Advisory Council was actually set up.

"Let me begin by reminding you of what the federal legislation has to say on the subject.

"Section 7 of the Act provides for the establishment of a Council 'consisting of not more than 30 members to be appointed by the Governor-in-Council... each member to hold office for a term not exceeding three years'. It goes on to indicate that the 'Governor-in-Council shall designate one of the members as Chairman', and further that 'at least one (of the members) shall be appointed from each province'.

"These were the terms of reference under which we had to operate, but other factors also had to be taken into account.

"First and foremost, the Council was to be a 'citizen's committee'. In his original announcement, the Prime Minister had envisaged the whole project as a 'people's programme', and it seemed to us that only a group appointed on the basis of their qualifications as individuals would be in keeping with this conception.

### 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, nor do 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 later on.

"Another consequence of the 'citizen's approach' was the fact that, like governments, 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

from each province, and this was covered in the selection which, in addition to the Chairman, provided for five persons from the Atlantic Region and eight each from Quebec, Ontario and Western Canada.

### REPRESENTATIVE CHARACTER

"The final consideration involved representation from different sectors of the Canadian community. Our aim here, of course, was to make the Council broadly representative of the population and of the many groups interested in fitness and amateur sport activities. So you find included on the Council women, clergymen, doctors, physical educationists, sportsmen, sportswriters, and so on.

"That, in brief, is how choices were made for the Council. I think most people would agree that it embodies a very able group of Canadians and I would like to say how much the Government appreciates their acceptance of this very important responsibility. I would also express our sincere regrets to those who were equally qualified but who were not included because of the various limitations inevitable in the selection of a Council of this size and type....

### TERMS OF OFFICE

"This brings me to another important point. As I indicated earlier, the federal legislation calls for a term of office for Council members of not more than three years. This provision was made because we realized that it would be impossible, at one fell swoop, to include everyone who should be on the Council. Through a system of rotation, however, we felt this problem could be lessened and also a means provided to ensure a more or less constant inflow of new blood, of fresh ideas and different viewpoints.

"To set the stage for the rotation, we decided that one half the Council members would serve for two years, the other half for three, and that the division should be made on a completely impartial basis. Accordingly, we took each province -- except those in the Atlantic region -- and, on an alphabetical basis, appointed half of the members for a period of three years and the remaining half for a period of two years. In the case of the Atlantic provinces, where there are five members, the first three alphabetically were appointed for a three-year term and the others for a two-year term.

"Now for the matter of federal-provincial co-operation. I have already explained why no level of government is represented as such on the Council. This, of course, does not imply any lack of recognition of the important role to be played by government, particularly at the provincial and local levels. On the contrary, we are fully aware of how essential it is to the new programme's success to have the closest possible working arrangements among governments.

"To this end, I yesterday invited the designated ministers of each province to come to Ottawa for a federal-provincial conference to be held on February 19 and 20. The purpose of this conference, as I see it, will be to lay the groundwork for federal-provincial co-operation with regard to the new programme.