

An Olympian's Oral History

MONIQUE BERLIOUX

*1948 Olympic Games – London
– Swimming –*

*Director, International Olympic Committee
1971–1985*

Interviewed by:
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Interviewer: All right. I am so happy to be here with you today, to just learn about your past, to learn about your experiences, to learn about the things that were special to you about your life before the Olympic movement, during the Olympic movement, and now ...

M. Berlioux: After. *[Laughter]*

Interviewer: Well, after. I think there's no after. You're an Olympian. As they say, "Once an Olympian, always an Olympian." But if you could just talk with me a little bit about where you were born, when you were born, what your childhood was like, and things that were important to you.

M. Berlioux: Yeah, well, it's a long story, you know, because I was born on 22 December, 1923, almost 90 years ago. Therefore I have seen many, many things. And, maybe I don't remember everything because it's too full of happenings.

I was ... I had not a good house when I was a toddler, and therefore I was brought up by my grandparents in the east part of France. And, I had all the children's complaints you can imagine, including whooping cough. So, it lasted quite a number of years, and I remained there until I was 10 years old.

My mother had divorced soon after I was born; therefore I never knew my father, nor his family. That was very simple. At 10 years old I came to Paris to enter the lycée. And, at the same time I started swimming, because my mother believed that the education of a girl should be between learning literature, mathematics, and so on, and practicing sport so there would be no time to go outside. *[Laughter]* It was a good, good system.

Well, I spent six years at lycée. I finished my baccalaureate, and after I went to university to study literature. At the same time I won my first swimming championships when I was 14, in '38. And, next year we entered the war period, which was quite a difficult time, especially when you live in Paris because the food was very scarce. And, I remember that we used to get up at 5:00 when the curfew was lifted to run for the shops to try to find food, and we have to queue for hours before going to school. And, the swimming pools were very busy, but it was a warm place because we had not much warmth inside our houses.

And, I remember in 1944, just before the war was finished Paris was liberated. I swam for the third or fourth time, the crossing of Paris swimming, which went from the Pont d'Austerlitz to the Pont de l'Alma. It was around six or seven kilometers swimming through Paris. That was very amusing. But once I arrived, I had to go back to my home by foot because there was no transportation. And, the worst part of it was that we did not have proper shoes, but shoes made with paper interlocked, you know? And, the rain started, and the shoes collapsed completely. *[Laughter]* I remember very well.

Then during the war I used to go to see my grandparents, who were living in a part of France which was called *zone interdite*, forbidden zone, which was inside the occupied zone. So, to get there we had to cross the River Marne, then the railway, then a canal. So, we went from one point to the other with our packages of clothing on the head. And, that was between two posts of German soldiers, so we were very careful not to make much noise, and ... as we were always carrying messages, because it was difficult for some people to be contacted otherwise.

So, after the war, when Paris was liberated I bought the few newspapers which were free, and I went to one newspaper, which was called *Défense de la France*, which became *France Soir* afterwards. And, the editor-in-chief was a man called Pierre Lazareff, who was a very good editor-in-chief. It was a very good newspaper, and I went to see him and asked him to employ me. So, he said, "No, later when you have made your classes, but I will send you to another newspaper." I then worked for the written press, the spoken press and television.

Interviewer: How old were you then?

M. Berlioux: And, ... for television I made *Women* magazine for one year.

Interviewer: For television you made a magazine?

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: And, what was that like?

M. Berlioux: Which was after ... but there were parts, you know, what could interest women, between fashion, food, home, etc., etc. And, that magazine lasted almost one hour.

Well, then ... I don't know. I have some holes, like ... which I don't remember. But I know that in 1954 someone called me asking if I

would like to go to China. And, there was a celebration in China for the fifth anniversary of the Long March of Mao Zedong, and I said, "Yes, why not?" But after taking advice, because the organization was a leftist organization, and I had been a member of the Gaullist Party in 1945 when de Gaulle founded the RPF, which became later the RPR. That's ... and then I went to China with four other women ... I think we were five, yes ... two Communist, one Socialist, and one ... I don't exactly know what she was ... and myself. And, when I came back I said, "Well, I will write what I saw in China," during those six weeks we spent, from north to south.

Interviewer: How did you travel to China? Did you leave ...

M. Berlioux: We traveled by plane and stopped in Moscow for a week, then to China. But the plane made 300 kilometers only and stopped each time, so it took a long time. And, especially we stayed in Yakutsk for one day waiting for the next plane. Thus we arrived in October just for the celebration. And, when I came back I decided to write what I saw and learned in China, and that was published in a daily newspaper first called *L'Aurore*, which was one of the two leading papers, and I made a book out of it.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

M. Berlioux: So, now we are in '54, something like that, and in '56 I ... yes, in '56 I wrote my first book on the Olympic Games.

Interviewer: Let's go back to before the Olympic Games. Let's go back to when you were in the ... was it in the lycée that you were swimming and training?

M. Berlioux: Yes ... well, I was training not every day, probably five times a week. But the [*laughter*] conception of training at the time was not to tire yourself too much, because you would not be able to swim properly for the next competition if you were too tired.

Interviewer: Too tired.

M. Berlioux: Which seems absolutely wrong today. But at the time that was so.

Interviewer: So, no idea of training effect and getting stronger, and getting stronger, huh?

M. Berlioux: No, no, no, no, no. And, I swam the English championships in '47, which were open to foreigners, and we had had no chance of swimming with other people during the war, of course. And, I won

the English Championships in '47. I swam them again in '46 and '47. And, then I was selected to go to the Games, London Games in '48, where I swam the 100 backstroke. But I had to undergo a surgery two weeks before the Games ... appendicitis. So, I was not in my top condition to swim in an Olympic Games.

Interviewer: Two weeks before, wow.

M. Berlioux: But I went in the semifinals; that's all. Then I finished my swimming career in '52. But I won the French championships after the Games were held in Helsinki. I did not take part in the Games in Helsinki because I refused the selection because I was not on very good terms with my federation. And, I thought they had not been right with me because at the time, the food was still scarce in France, but for athletes in training there were some facilities. The federation denied me these facilities; therefore I said, "Well, all right, but I will not go to the Games." But to show them that I was still the best in France in my category, I decided to swim the French championships, which I won. I was very pleased. *[Laughter]* But I –

Interviewer: Did you have a coach?

M. Berlioux: I think it's completely crazy when I think of it now.

Interviewer: Yes. Did you have a coach?

M. Berlioux: My mother was my coach, almost all the time.

Interviewer: Your mother was your coach?

M. Berlioux: Yes, because she had learned to swim when she was only 20 ... when she was already 20, I should say ... in the coldest river which existed in France. At the time it was le Doubs near Besançon, in France. And, then she had remarried with a swimming instructor, so she started coaching me while my stepfather was coaching my older sister, who was almost five years older than me. Then we were not that close, I will say, because of the difference of age.

Interviewer: Who was faster?

M. Berlioux: Excuse me?

Interviewer: Who was the faster swimmer?

M. Berlioux: My sister won the long distance French championships, and I won the 100 backstroke. She was swimming freestyle; I was swimming backstroke.

Interviewer: So, not a direct competition. OK, that's good.

M. Berlioux: No. *[Laughter]* And, ... well, in the meantime I have practiced other sports like basketball at school, which I did not like that much. I like –

Interviewer: Didn't like basketball?

M. Berlioux: I don't like so much team competition. I like individual. That's ... maybe it's a shame, but that's it. And, did some horse riding and I did some rowing.

Interviewer: Ah, I knew we had a simpatico.

M. Berlioux: Yeah, I was a ... yes, I was in a rowing club during one or two years or so, yes.

Interviewer: Oh, good. In Paris?

M. Berlioux: Near Paris, in the suburbs at Joinville. It was a women's club which was quite good at the time. What else could I say about all these years? You wanted me to ...

Interviewer: Did you ever want to coach? Did you want to do anything in sport more than you did?

M. Berlioux: Yes, I founded a club in ... I don't remember what time, but I coached synchronized swimming, because at the time I thought that swimming was a little bit ... how could I put it nicely? I can't be nice, what I'm –

Interviewer: Because it's your sport.

M. Berlioux: It was a little boring to be doing laps and laps and laps and laps, and I thought synchronized swimming would be more amusing, more fun. So, I coached synchronized swimming and I founded a club. That club was champion of France for several years, and that's why when I was at the IOC I wanted to have synchronized swimming in the Games, which I succeeded by a trick I played. *[Laughter]* But maybe I'll tell you later.

Interviewer: OK.

M. Berlioux: Well, we arrive in '56 now, where I got married to a writer whose name is Serge Groussard, who was at the time very famous because he had interviewed Khrushchev and all the big shots in the world. That's when I started ... because I was working for a newspaper called *L'Aurore*, which was the direct opponent of *Le Figaro*, where Serge was working. So, I quit because we could not be in competition together ... once again, competition. And, to occupy my time I wrote my first book on the Olympic Games.

And, then the next years what did I do?

Interviewer: When you were a competitor at the Games, it was the London Games, correct?

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: At the Olympic Games. What was it like at those Olympic Games, to be competing?

M. Berlioux: What was it like? It was quite difficult for us French people because we were just out of the war, and with many food restrictions and so forth.

Interviewer: Let's take a break.

[Break in audio]

M. Berlioux: I should start with the opening ceremony.

Interviewer: Please.

M. Berlioux: We were called at 8:00, something like that, in the morning, to take the bus with one piece of cucumber and one apple. And, the opening ceremony started around 3:00 in the afternoon.

Interviewer: Oh, my gosh.

M. Berlioux: So, that's the first thing. *[Laughter]* And, we had to stand up all that time ... that was also a good preparation for the next competition. And, what is amusing is that Christian Dior had launched the new look with long skirts, and ... for the uniforms the federation had chosen the long skirts, together with a jacket made of good wool, very strong. And, the sun was shining terribly, and so we were in those uniforms, which was quite –

Interviewer: Melting, yeah.

M. Berlioux: Difficult to wear.

Interviewer: Did you have a competition the next day after opening ceremonies?

M. Berlioux: No, I can't remember that. No, I don't know.

Interviewer: Oh, good. OK, OK.

M. Berlioux: Maybe two days later. We were living in a ... not in the Olympic Village, which was reserved for the men, because the two villages were separated. And, the girls were living in several old colleges. We were in Victoria College, where it was very, very simple, I must say. But the English people had also lived the war and knew what it was.

What could I say about the Games? As soon as the Games were over we were sent back so not to spend too much money ...

Interviewer: Yes, yes.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: Did you travel as a team? Did the team get together in Paris and then travel to London, or how did ...

M. Berlioux: I can't remember. I'm not sure.

Interviewer: OK, OK.

M. Berlioux: Probably we went separately. I'm not sure we were like a team.

Interviewer: Mm...hmm. I just wondered.

M. Berlioux: I remember that at Victoria College we were accommodated with the athletes, athletics.

Interviewer: Meaning track and field.

M. Berlioux: Track and field, yes. And, ...

Interviewer: Had you met any of those athletes before then?

M. Berlioux: And, one of the athletes who won two gold medals, was Micheline Ostermeyer, and she was a very good pianist also. Yeah. So, we

were quite good friends. But the other people of the team I can't remember very well.

Interviewer: Do you remember at all who the leader of the national Olympic team was? Did they address the team in any way and say, "We're proud of you and we want you to do well"?

M. Berlioux: Oh, *[laughter]* this is completely out of order, because we did not know our leaders.

Interviewer: Oh, you didn't? OK.

M. Berlioux: No. And, they apparently did not know us very well, because they did not care very much.

Interviewer: OK. *[Laughter]* Did you know that there was something called an International Olympic Committee?

M. Berlioux: Yes, but not because of my swimming but because of my writing in newspapers, because I was ... this was not forbidden by the International Olympic Committee at the time. I was writing in newspapers and reporting about swimming for my newspaper. *[Laughter]* Therefore I was the press ... the press stands were along the swimming pool, and one day I was sitting there not swimming, but I see one of the – not Dutch – Danish champions who was swimming the 400-meter freestyle collapsing.

Interviewer: Oh.

M. Berlioux: During the race. So, I had my bathing suit on, so I dived to rescue her, and someone on the other side dived to rescue her, so we were both in the middle of the pool while the competition was continuing.

Interviewer: Oh, they didn't stop the competition?

M. Berlioux: No, no, no, no, no. No, no. *[Laughter]* But we managed to rescue her. She was a very, very good swimmer. I don't know what had happened to her at the time.

Interviewer: Mm...hmm. So, you got her out of the water?

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: And, the competition continued.

M. Berlioux: And, finished.

Interviewer: And, finished, OK.

M. Berlioux: Yes, yes.

Interviewer: Hmm.

M. Berlioux: What else about London Games? I have very few other memories unfortunately. I met then for the first time Avery Brundage.

Interviewer: Hmm. How did that happen?

M. Berlioux: I think he came to the swimming pool, and I was in very good terms with the president of the international federation, who was Mario Negri. And, Mario Negri introduced me to Brundage on the side of the swimming pool, but I did not last very long because he had other things to do. But that was the first time I met him.

Interviewer: Interesting. So, as an athlete ...

M. Berlioux: He was to become president four years later. Yeah.

Interviewer: And, he was ... do you know ... he was just visiting the pool? He wasn't there in an official capacity?

M. Berlioux: He was not.

Interviewer: Was he there in an official capacity? Did he have a responsibility at swimming?

M. Berlioux: Oh, yes. He was the president of the U.S. Olympic team.

Interviewer: OK, so he was there to see what was happening.

M. Berlioux: National Olympic Committee, yeah.

Interviewer: OK, yeah. That's right.

M. Berlioux: And, so the U.S. team was very, very good, and the girls won the 400-meters freestyle – four-times 100-meter freestyle relay, yeah.

Interviewer: And, that was an important race for them, I know.

M. Berlioux: There was also something else. We were absolutely amazed to see the American girls eating white bread, because we are not seeing it for so, so long.

Interviewer: Where did they get it? Do you know how they had –

M. Berlioux: Because each ... I suppose each team was bringing out the food they needed, because in London you could not get that much food at the time, so.

Interviewer: Yeah, I think ... yeah ...

M. Berlioux: Each team was responsible for ...

Interviewer: Bringing their own food.

M. Berlioux: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: I think it may have been that they had a contact with the armed forces there and somehow got food from their garrison there.

M. Berlioux: Maybe, yeah. And, the boys' teams were accommodated in a former soldiers' camp.

Interviewer: So, not too luxurious. Well, did they have nice beds or was it ...

M. Berlioux: Oh, no, no, no. It was very simple still.

Interviewer: That's what I'd heard about those Games. Most of the Olympians speak of them as being the Games where things were just very bare and that the people of England were still suffering from rations, and that it was amazing that there was food available for the Olympians. And, there was a great deal of appreciation for it, but I guess each team had a different level of support.

M. Berlioux: Yes, absolutely.

Interviewer: Did you have a chance to meet athletes from other countries?

M. Berlioux: Oh, yes, yes. I met all the American swimmers, for example, yes, and I remember them very well. There was a diver called Sammy Lee.

Interviewer: Oh, Sammy Lee, yes, yes. They just named a street for him in Los Angeles.

M. Berlioux: Yes?

Interviewer: Yes, Dr. Sammy Lee. He won a medal in diving.

M. Berlioux: Yeah. And, I have a friend who was a diver in '48, and she became fourth. That's a very bad situation. And, she was ... she is still at this day friends with Sammy Lee.

Interviewer: Oh, that's nice. That's really nice.

M. Berlioux: Yeah. So, we shared, and I knew Allen Stack, who was the 100-meter backstroke Olympic champion, and several others, yeah. And, the girls, of course, Ann Curtis, Brenda Helser, and so forth.

Interviewer: Did you communicate with those athletes after the Games or did you ever see them again?

M. Berlioux: Some of them, yes. I saw after, Brenda Helser in particular, because she came to live in France, in Paris, so I met her. And, what's his name? Who was champion rowing ... rowing champion after his father?

Interviewer: Jack Kelly.

M. Berlioux: Well, yeah.

Interviewer: Jack Kelly, of course. Yes.

M. Berlioux: Jack Kelly, yes.

Interviewer: Yeah. What were the crowds like at the Olympic Games? Do you remember the spectators?

M. Berlioux: Well, there were ... The swimming pool was full, and for the opening ceremonies the stadium was full. But we had not ... we did not go and see other sports because we had no possibility of going there. I went twice to the stadium to see athletics, but that's all.

Interviewer: OK. Well, there's a little bit of that ... athletes still see a little bit of some other sports. That's nice. That's nice.

M. Berlioux: Yes. What else can I say about London? There was of course ... there was no visit of London. No. Usually when we went swimming in a country, I tried to see the city, but our team managers did not take care of it, which I thought was a pity. And, when I had my own club I always took the girls to see a little bit of the country they were

visiting, because sport is a good thing, but you have to enlarge your views also.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. Were there cultural things happening at the Games as well, outside of sports?

M. Berlioux: There was still in '48 the cultural program for the last time, because that was taken out of the Games, after '48. But we could not go. First of all, it was ... the situation was that the transport was difficult. Then the time we had was difficult. Therefore we went segregated in our whole system.

Interviewer: Well, by the way, transport was a little difficult even last year in London at those Games, but maybe not as difficult as it was in '48.

M. Berlioux: Sure. It was to celebrate the birthday.

Interviewer: That's right, that's right. *[Laughter]*

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: So, the Games were over. You went home. What happened to your life after the Games?

M. Berlioux: After the Games? I was still working and still swimming until ... I told you, until '52. Then I stopped swimming because I was too old to continue and I wanted to try to make a career in some way.

Interviewer: How old was too old to continue in swimming in that era?

M. Berlioux: Excuse me?

Interviewer: How old were you when you thought you were too old to continue swimming?

M. Berlioux: Twenty...nine.

Interviewer: Twenty...nine, OK.

M. Berlioux: I think it was old, because swimmers start around 14, 15, and after 20s they start to be a little old. And, do you know, it's ... you are very light when you're young; therefore your floating is much better than when you are 25, for example, and you are heavy, heavier. Therefore you must deploy more strength. And, that's probably why swimmers don't last that long.

Interviewer: Although I think today ... well, say last year at the London Games in 2012, I think the average age of the swimmers might have been more like 24, 25, because there's more support for athletes so that they can continue to swim and not have to worry about their careers as much. Many of the national Olympic committees support the athletes.

M. Berlioux: You're speaking of the ... now?

Interviewer: Yes, for 2012.

M. Berlioux: Uh...huh. Yes, but now the concept is entirely different, because all the swimmers are subsidized. They don't have to work. They don't have to have money to eat. So, it's a completely different system.

Interviewer: Were you all amateurs in 1948?

M. Berlioux: Oh, yes, completely.

Interviewer: And, that meant that ...

M. Berlioux: And, I remember when I went to swim the English championships I had to pay for my entry.

Interviewer: Ouch. Was it expensive? You had to pay to compete?

M. Berlioux: Everything was expensive for us at that time, because we had not much money. But I think it was a good system because it proved that you wanted to take part. Now you have to pay the athletes, which I think is wrong. But it's another story.

Interviewer: OK. You were still training a little bit into your 20s but you also had finished your education. You'd gone to ... from what I call high school on to college, and you'd finished college?

M. Berlioux: And, then I went to university ...

Interviewer: To university, yes.

M. Berlioux: And, I started working. When I was 14 I started giving lessons to youngsters so I could get pocket money, because there was not much money at home. And, to finish the story, it was going to be very expensive.

Interviewer: What was working like then when you were ... you were deciding that maybe swimming was not as important and ... Oh, I asked you

about finishing your degree, so just tell me about your education and then your move into the working world.

M. Berlioux: Well, it was maybe a little both at the same time, because when I was 14 I started giving lessons to youngsters, you know, to have pocket money. And, I continued to work while doing ... while doing my studies. And, when I went to university I used to work also at the same time. Then when I became a journalist I continued swimming. So, it was a parallel life until I finished swimming and gave all my time to work.

Interviewer: Did you think that there was a career possible in sports, or was it in journalism then?

M. Berlioux: I did not think that there was a career in sport, in fact, because the sports instructors were scarce at the time. It was not organized as it is now, with physical education teachers having degrees in sport and so on. It did not exist at that time.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. I think at one point you mentioned that your mother was your coach. Did she teach other people or coach other people as well?

M. Berlioux: Yes. She did ... oh, yes, she taught until she was 75, and she had champion swimmers, especially one she liked very much who was Christine Caron, who became second in the Games in 100-meter backstroke also. And, then she continued to coach girls who took part in the Games, and I don't remember ... I think it was in '64 in Tokyo. I think she was the oldest of the coaches.

Interviewer: So, we now know that you've already met Avery Brundage once at the side of the swimming pool, and you'd been to the Olympic Games. You didn't know that there was this International Olympic Committee really or what it was.

M. Berlioux: No, no, no.

Interviewer: People didn't write about it or you couldn't find much about it, so –

M. Berlioux: No, but after '52 I had a friend who was in athletics, but at the same time he was the son of the director of *Le Figaro*, a French newspaper, and he corresponded with Brundage. And, when Brundage came to Paris I saw him after '52 thanks to this gentleman. And, they shared positive experiences. Then I suppose I saw Brundage quite regularly, but once in a year, no more, until I

arrived at the IOC in '67. But I have made a big jump which I should cover now.

Interviewer: OK.

M. Berlioux: In '59 I entered the cabinet of the French Secretary of State of Sport, who was high commissioner only at the time, who was Maurice Herzog, who after '70 became an IOC member. He was a very good minister, and he put me in charge of the ... as chief of press of the secretariat, and I was a member of his cabinet for the six years he stayed as the minister. Then I remained one year with his successor, who was Francois Missoffe. Then I broke my leg while cycling in the country and I had to be three months in plaster from toe to hip, which was very interesting. This is when I decided that the book I had written about Olympics, I could make a film of it. And, then I decided to get in touch with the IOC so maybe they could finance that film. I went to London to meet the press commission, which was presided over by Lord Killanin. And, I was pushed in the room of the executive board in a little chair because I still had my leg in plaster when I went there. So, probably –

Interviewer: *[Laughter]* That must have hurt! Ouch!

M. Berlioux: More so because of it. And, there was a secretary general at that time at the IOC who was a Dutchman, Eric Jonas, who was looking for a chief of press for the IOC. And, he told me when I was leaving that if I was interested I could come to Lausanne and work for the IOC. That's how I entered the IOC, but I never made the film.

Interviewer: *[Laughter]*

M. Berlioux: But later, later, many years later I did anyway with French ... a Frenchman who is quite famous now, who is Costelle, Daniel Costelle.

Interviewer: So, you made the film. What was the storyline of the film?

M. Berlioux: It's each Games. It's the story of each Games ... very simple, more simple, because you can do it through sports or through each Olympic Games, and I choose the obvious, which was to recall what had been the Olympic Games since Greece.

Interviewer: Mm...hmm, backwards.

M. Berlioux: Backwards.

Interviewer: Yeah.

M. Berlioux: And, then I went to Lausanne. But I thought ... when I arrived in Lausanne I thought it was not a good place to live in after Paris, that I could not, so I went back to Paris. Then my husband had to go for his newspaper in Israel or something like that, and when he was away I thought it over and said, "It's not very fair to have promised to Killanin and work for the opportunity and not doing it."

Interviewer: What did they want you to do? What was the job offer?

M. Berlioux: To take care of the press and public relations.

Interviewer: Was that a big job then? What kind of job was it?

M. Berlioux: It was to create entirely because there was nothing doing. The IOC was very poor at the time. There was one secretary general, but two or three employees only. So, it was –

Interviewer: Can you tell me what income did it have at all?

M. Berlioux: What?

Interviewer: What income was there for the IOC?

M. Berlioux: Well, the income came, one, from the members who paid their fee, which was not much. It was 100 Swiss francs a year, and some did not pay. It was raised to 150 later. And, the second part came through the cities organizing the Games. When the cities were chosen, they had to pay a certain amount of money to organize the Games to the IOC. And, the IOC was living only on that money. The president was paying everything. The members were paying their travels, their expenses when they meet in session and so forth, because there was no money available, only for a few people to take care of the office.

Interviewer: Did the NOCs have to pay a fee to be part of the Olympic movement?

M. Berlioux: No, no, no, no.

Interviewer: OK, so it was just the IOC members ... the members of the board were the ones who were really responsible for keeping this organization alive.

M. Berlioux: Yeah. And, as you speak of the national Olympic committees, at the beginning of the IOC they were not supposed to remain NOCs, but they were supposed to be organized for the Games and then dissolve. They were not a permanent body as they have become, whereas the international federations were permanent bodies.

Interviewer: Interesting. The NOCs were not ... they just came into being to send their team and then they'd go away?

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: And, the IFs, because they have a permanent responsibility for sport, continued, and the Games were just one of the things that they did.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: How did sports survive then? There weren't sponsorships. Was it government support or was it individual?

M. Berlioux: They had government support, but not much. No. And, there were some wealthy people_ at the time who gave their time and money to develop sport, which does not exist any longer because everybody relies on government, on publicity, etc.

Interviewer: Interesting. It's a different approach, different approach.

M. Berlioux: Yes. Now about the IOC ... In '67 was a very, very small organization which grew little by little. In 1960 there were the first television rights, but these television rights were paid to the organizing committee, not to the IOC. There was a big discussion to have ... for the IOC to have a part of these television rights, *[laughter]* but in the years which followed the organizing committees, when the city was chosen, were the only one to negotiate the television rights.

Interviewer: That still happened in '84.

M. Berlioux: Excuse me?

Interviewer: In 1984 that happened, too.

M. Berlioux: No, no, no.

Interviewer: It wasn't supposed to, but it did.

M. Berlioux: In 1984 it was different. I'll tell you. And, it was decided ... Well, I thought ... I spoke with the president. I said, "It's not normal. We should be responsible to negotiate the television rights."

Interviewer: And, tell me what year this was then.

M. Berlioux: Yes, but to achieve this, it took a long time because the cities were chosen six years before the Games, and once they were chosen you could not change the rules; therefore we had to wait until 1984 to be able to negotiate together with the organizing committee the Games.

Interviewer: OK, that makes sense.

M. Berlioux: And, it's only after '84 that the IOC was the one to negotiate.

Interviewer: OK, OK.

M. Berlioux: Yeah. And, I remember very well in Los Angeles the discussions I had with Peter Ueberroth for the television rights.

Interviewer: Yes, indeed, indeed. Well, let's go back to you ... you decide to pack up from the City of Light and move to Lausanne, the City of Lowlights, and find a place to live. How did you do that? You were ...

M. Berlioux: Well, when I started organizing something at the IOC, I was not enjoying it very much. So, I decided to remain there, and my husband was not that pleased, but I used to take the train on the Friday evenings to come spend the weekend in Paris, then go back to my job. Yeah.

Interviewer: OK. And, tell me a little bit about your husband and what he was doing.

M. Berlioux: What he was doing? He was working very hard for his books and his newspaper, and this lasted ... I can't remember when he stopped writing for the newspaper, but it was '75, something like that. And, his last book was about the drama which happened in Munich in '72, where he wrote a book. The title was *The Blood of Israel*. It was about the drama, the killing of the Israeli athletes.

Interviewer: Yes. But before that he'd been a journalist. Had he been a war correspondent?

M. Berlioux: Yes, also, yeah. But he interviewed several Presidents of the United States, I remember, and followed the elections every four years, like the Olympic Games. Yeah.

[Break in audio]

Interviewer: Today it seems quite normal for women to be athletes, and I wonder what it was like when you were competing. Did people think it was odd that you as a woman were taking part in sports, or was there ... I don't want to say prejudice, but maybe prejudice?

M. Berlioux: I can tell you that when I was at the lycée I started learning Latin in the course of my studies. And, I remember my Latin teacher at the lycée, college, telling me on every Monday, "Ah, Mademoiselle Berlioux, we have seen your name in the newspaper. That won't do! You cannot do that! It's a shame for the lycée."

Interviewer: Won't do, oh.

M. Berlioux: Yeah, because it was very ...

Interviewer: OK, so did anyone object to you being an athlete and the success you were having, or did people celebrate the fact that you were competing and doing well?

M. Berlioux: No, it was in the, let us say, bourgeois way not a good thing to practice sport, and especially to compete.

Interviewer: Do you think it was because you were a girl, or do you think it was simply because ...

M. Berlioux: Oh, probably because it was good for men but not for women to compete, to show off.

Interviewer: To show off, to be successful in a way.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: That's too bad. That's too bad.

M. Berlioux: Yes. You could practice a little, but compete? That was another degree above.

Interviewer: Did it trouble you that he would say such things?

M. Berlioux: Yes, because I abandoned Latin! *[Laughter]*

Interviewer: OK ... well, you solved the problem.

M. Berlioux: Yes. And, I took back Latin when I was out of the lycée.

Interviewer: OK, that's really too bad, but you did solve the problem. Was there any other kind of distinction? What about the boys? How did they feel about your competing? Were there boys on your swim team?

M. Berlioux: No, I don't ... I –

Interviewer: Were there boys who swam on the same team as you did, or was it a girls' and boys' –

M. Berlioux: I was always coached by my mother and not as a team, you know? I was alone. I met friends, either boys or girls, on the days of competition, not at training.

Interviewer: I see. Was that normal then to have sort of an independent coach?

M. Berlioux: More or less, yes, because there were not many coaches. There were not many clubs affording to have a coach, and coaches were not paid. It was their own passion or pastime or whatever.

Interviewer: Interesting. Was there any other sport that you wanted to take part in?

M. Berlioux: No, because it's impossible to compete in several sport at the same time, at least during my time, because again the condition, the transportation was difficult. We could not go by car to the swimming pool. You had to take some public transportation, and sometimes it was far from your home. And, you could not take part in rowing. It took me more than one hour to go to the river Marne where we practiced and back. That was difficult.

Interviewer: Interesting.

M. Berlioux: On Sundays I went to Joinville, which is a suburb of Paris, to practice gymnastics, and we practiced all morning with instructors from the army, because it was an army center.

Interviewer: Oh, my.

M. Berlioux: From 9:00 to 12:00, running, doing lots of gymnastic and so forth. Then after that I went to the swimming pool to train. Then I came

back at home around 3:00 or 4:00 completely exhausted. I did not have any ... not possibility, but even taste to go outside.

Interviewer: It's time to rest. OK, you were looking towards a career in journalism? Was that your thought after –

M. Berlioux: I thought at first, yes, because my mother, being a teacher, was a *functionnaire*, and this is what I hated most ... the *functionnaire*. I wanted to be free. *[Laughter]*

Interviewer: Tell me what a *functionnaire* means. It means that you had to be at a certain time at certain places?

M. Berlioux: Yes. You were always doing the same thing. Every morning you get up at 8:00. Then you start school at 8:30 or whatever until 12:00, and then from 2:00 to 4:00. I could not envisage that all my life, even with the big holidays you could afford.

Interviewer: And, so you thought that being a journalist might be a way to avoid that.

M. Berlioux: Yes, I would be free, but then I did not know that I would work even more.

Interviewer: Ah, yes. So, tell me again how you ... who gave you the opportunity. Was it Maurice Herzog that you first worked with in ... I've forgotten how you got to Maurice Herzog and then from there to the IOC. I'm sorry.

M. Berlioux: I ... How did I enter? I know that I wrote to him to ask if I could work for him.

Interviewer: Why?

M. Berlioux: Because I thought it was an opportunity and he was so famous at the time and so on.

Interviewer: He had finished his ... maybe tell people who Maurice Herzog is, because there will be Americans looking at this interview who may not know.

M. Berlioux: *[Laughter]* Yes. Maurice Herzog had reached the top of the Annapurna, climbing the mountains. He was from Germany, and he used to love to climb mountains, and therefore he set up a team to go to the Annapurna, which was the first time a human being climbed 8,000 meters. And, when he came back he had to be

amputated ... the hands and feet. And, after that General De Gaulle named him high commissioner for sport when he had recovered from his surgery, of course. And, he ... I think he took office in '58 or something, and then in '59 I was looking for ... because newspapers I was working for collapsed, so I had to find another job. And, then I worked for television for that *Women* magazine and then it was stopped, so I had to find a new job. And, this is how I wrote to Maurice Herzog, because I had known him through the press.

Interviewer: So, you decided to take kind of a leap, and then here's someone who you respected, and thought it would be interesting to work with.

M. Berlioux: Yeah. And, he replied and came to ... and told me that I could work for the press, because there was no press at the ministry at the time. No person specialized in press.

Interviewer: That's interesting. Were there other ministries that had ...

M. Berlioux: A press attaché? Not so much at that time, but some had, yes.

Interviewer: So, you were providing a new service as well, hoping to provide a new service for the ministry. Excellent. And, what type of responsibilities did you have?

M. Berlioux: To organize. To try to get newspapers to write nice stories.

Interviewer: Nice stories, of course. *[Laughter]*

M. Berlioux: Stories about the high commissioner and what he was doing for sport and what was happening. But he was a very good minister. He made many things happen. And, also it was thanks to him that so many swimming pools and athletic fields and gymnasiums were built during his period.

Interviewer: So, he was successful at helping that expand.

M. Berlioux: Excuse me?

Interviewer: He was successful expanding.

M. Berlioux: Yeah, mm. ... mm. But after the war everything was to be rebuilt anyway. But he found the possibilities and money to do it.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm, OK. Then you take the move to Lausanne. Now you told me a minute ago about why you decided to do that. Could you tell us again? I'm sorry. When you moved from the ministry, how did you get to the International ...

M. Berlioux: No, I told you that I continued to work with the successor of Maurice Herzog, who was Francois Misoffe, for a year, but I did not get along that well with him. And, that's why I tried to find something else. But in the meantime I had broken my leg and had to ... tried to make a film about the Olympic Games based upon the book I had written. And, this is how I asked the IOC to help me to fund the film, which they could not afford, of course, which I did not know.

Interviewer: Can you tell us about the book? What was the story that you wanted to have in the film?

M. Berlioux: I ... just to remind what had been the previous Olympic Games, starting from Greece to London, to Helsinki, to Melbourne, and so forth. So, the first book ended at ... I think, if I'm not mistaken ... in '60 in Rome.

Interviewer: Were you at those Games?

M. Berlioux: No, but my mother was because she accompanied the team, because there was now a team of women swimmers, and she was the head of that team.

M. Berlioux: She was coaching after I stopped swimming. My mother continued coaching girls, and she had, as I told you, several champions of France, including Christine Caron, who is still quite known in my country.

Interviewer: So, she went to Rome. Did she tell you of her experiences there?

M. Berlioux: She told me what was happening there, and my husband was in Rome also to report for the newspaper about the Games. So, I had ... I was filled with the news, yes.

Interviewer: Yeah, those were great Games. Rafer Johnson was at the [Rome Games] That's where he won his gold medal in the decathlon. And, the great track team of the women, the Tigerbelles, were first there with Wilma Rudolph winning her first two gold medals. So, those were wonderful Games ... evidently. I wasn't there, but your mother was.

M. Berlioux: I think they were beautiful. Especially the marathon was something special.

Interviewer: Oh, yes, yes. The coach ... LeRoy Walker was the coach of Abebe Bikila who ran through the streets barefoot. And, he had been coaching him in Ethiopia, and Haile Selassie, who was the emperor of Ethiopia, had called him there to coach because he wanted his athletes to win. But he wanted them to win in the stadium, and so Dr. Walker had to convince the emperor that it was OK to have an Ethiopian athlete running. He told the Emperor that it was OK to be running in the streets and that it would be a good idea to win the marathon. So, he was successful at that and then when they arrived in Rome he told me this wonderful story about how everyone was making fun of him, because he was running barefoot. And, so Dr. Walker said he reluctantly decided well maybe he should try some shoes, so he said, "OK, don't go far. Just try these shoes." And, he said he probably ran further than he should have and when he was coming back he was limping. So, Dr. Walker was horrified. He thought, "What have I done to this great athlete? He's limping. It's my fault. I told him to put shoes on." And, it turned out it was no problem. He was limping because it was the top of his foot that was sore from having the material on it, but the bottom of his foot was just fine, as it had been always. So, that was a time of change, you know? We don't have barefoot athletes anymore, but ...

M. Berlioux: No. Finished.

Interviewer: Done. But he ran that marathon barefoot and won for Ethiopia.

M. Berlioux: But for the London Games our federation had provided us bathing suits, but the material was ...

Interviewer: Bathing suits?

M. Berlioux: So, bad that when you went in the water it did not stretch. It just ...

Interviewer: It shrank?

M. Berlioux: Shrank. Yeah. So, you could not move easily. Yeah.

Interviewer: So, did you have to swim in that through the Games?

M. Berlioux: We were supposed to, but I abandoned it, because it was impossible.

Interviewer: OK. Uniforms often are a problem for athletes at the Games.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: I have another story just quickly: The athletes were gathered for the night for '84. Peter Ueberroth said, "You know, we should have the athletes from other Games talk about their experience." So, they gathered a bunch of the athletes from the '32 games to talk about Los Angeles '32 and I heard them talking about the uniforms from '32. One of guys said, "Yes, the only thing that fit for the women was the necklace that they all wore." They were laughing. So, uniforms and athletes is a common discussion. OK.

M. Berlioux: Do you know that I have Avery Brundage's hat from the parade in the '36 Games?

Interviewer: No.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: So, he was in the parade as a part of the U.S. Olympic team, yes? He was part of that team then?

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: That's a nice artifact.

M. Berlioux: He was there because he was an official.

Interviewer: Wearing the uniform of the official. Yeah. Interesting. I wonder what that uniform looked like. How do you have his hat?

M. Berlioux: Excuse me?

Interviewer: Why do you have his hat?

M. Berlioux: I don't remember how I got it.

Interviewer: OK.

M. Berlioux: Probably ... You know, he asked me in '73 to clean his papers and that took quite a long time, because I stayed over for months in the Hotel La Salle in Chicago to get rid of lots of correspondence, so classified, because he wanted to give it to his university. And, I took notes of everything he had and strangely enough, one or two years later I heard that it was published, the list I had made. And, I

suppose it was at that time, I tell you, doing that when I got the hat probably.

Interviewer: OK. Anything else we should talk about now?

M. Berlioux: About the time before the IOC. It's a long, long time. One says that the memory which is open to more memory is better than a closed one, but I'm not sure.

Interviewer: Well, we've been doing OK. [Let's discuss] the years that Maurice was minister of sport ... what years was he in the Ministry?

M. Berlioux: Excuse me?

Interviewer: Maurice Herzog.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: When did he start and end in the ...

M. Berlioux: I think he started around '58 and he left in '66.

Interviewer: OK, '66. OK. Did he just retire ... did he retire completely from ...

M. Berlioux: No. No. He did not retire. He was replaced.

Interviewer: Oh. OK.

M. Berlioux: He had done ... I don't know if it's good to say now, but I tell you, between you and me, and you do what you like with it, he was named by General de Gaulle. Then, therefore, when he had a problem with the prime minister at the time, he used to call or go to him to solve the problem. And, then the prime minister, after two or three of these things, took offense and when the government was changed Herzog was put out.

Interviewer: Oh.

M. Berlioux: That was his ...

Interviewer: That sounds like it was pretty clear.

M. Berlioux: Mm-hmm. But this did not serve as a lesson to him.

Interviewer: No. No.

M. Berlioux: As you could see, when he was elected [to the IOC] in '70 I must say thanks to me, because I had insisted to Brundage that he was the best for France and so forth and so forth. So, he was elected in '70 and in '72 he wanted to become president of the IOC already.

Interviewer: Was there a vacancy?

M. Berlioux: There was a vacancy.

Interviewer: Yes? Oh, that's right. Of course there was.

M. Berlioux: Count de Beaumont, who was the NOC president for France ...

Interviewer: Yes.

M. Berlioux: Was a candidate, therefore, he made several enemies by wanting to push himself that way.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. That's interesting, because by the time I became a member he was near being retired, but he was respected, but there was always something. You know, I couldn't tell what it was, but that would explain it.

M. Berlioux: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: That's interesting.

M. Berlioux: It left a bad impression, but you could not tell him not to do it.

Interviewer: No. No.

M. Berlioux: And, he, as many French people, he could not understand what was the IOC in fact.

Interviewer: What do you mean by that?

M. Berlioux: Well, you have to get used to ... When you are a member of the IOC you have to understand what is the organization, how it lives, who are the members, what they think, and so on.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

M. Berlioux: But I suppose he wanted to impose his hold and because he thought he was one who knew the best ...

Interviewer: Yes and he was supposed to be and instead, it came to be Lord Killanin, huh?

M. Berlioux: Yes. Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Do you remember what that ... I don't know if you should talk about this today, but this would be a discussion about how the members chose a leader and what kind of discussions went on, if you can remember them, and how people decided to put themselves forward to be candidates?

M. Berlioux: Well, if we start with de Courbertin.

Interviewer: OK.

M. Berlioux: He chose his successor.

Interviewer: That's right.

M. Berlioux: As for Henri de Baillet-Latour, he died in office. There was a war. Then, as the first vice president, who was Edström, took over and at the first Session after the war he was, of course, elected, because he had managed to keep the IOC intact, intact more or less.

Interviewer: [How did Killanin become president?]

M. Berlioux: Members put in nominations and there were only two, Count Jean de Beaumont from France, and Lord Killanin from Ireland. And, de Beaumont made also many mistakes, because he claimed in some newspapers that Killanin was too old and so on, which was very bad taste.

Interviewer: Weren't they the same age?

M. Berlioux: No. Killanin was in his 60s at the time.

Interviewer: OK. OK.

M. Berlioux: Count de Beaumont was born in 1904, therefore, he was 76 when this happened. And, this did not make an impression for the taste of the IOC members.

Interviewer: Right. Right.

M. Berlioux: And, he lost several good votes like this. And, Killanin, who was supported by Brundage won.

Interviewer: How large was the membership then?

M. Berlioux: Around 70, 75.

Interviewer: OK. So, much smaller than it is now?

M. Berlioux: Yes, but now it is far too much.

Interviewer: Yeah.

M. Berlioux: And, I don't think the IOC should be composed of representatives of federations, representatives of national Olympic committees, representatives of athletes. It's distressing. The IOC should be above this and have the federations on one side, the NOCs on another side.

Interviewer: Yeah.

M. Berlioux: Now it's athlete-dominated and the commission of athletes, as I understand, are members in full of the IOC. What do they know about the IOC these athletes?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

M. Berlioux: It's not that the commission was bad. It's very good. It was a commission of athletes, because they can give and advise, whatever, but to be a member ... So, now you have the fact that one has been elected a member of the IOC and not even one year later will be voting for the president. I think it's ridiculous, no? You are a member of the IOC. What do you think?

Interviewer: Well, remember, I became a member of the IOC when I was still within six years of being an athlete, so ...

M. Berlioux: Oh, yes, but six years is a long time.

Interviewer: That's OK. I mean I was still competing and so forth.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah. It's different.

M. Berlioux: But you were not only an athlete.

Interviewer: That's true.

M. Berlioux: You had already a job to do.

Interviewer: That's true. That's true and I ...

M. Berlioux: But now the athletes have no jobs. Yeah. When you ask them what they do, they say, "Sport." I remember I was sitting in a dinner of the national Olympic committee. I was sitting close to a French champion, a swimming champion, and I asked, "What do you do apart from swimming?"

And, she replied, "Gymnastics." That was it.

Interviewer: Gymnastics. OK.

M. Berlioux: And, that was all.

Interviewer: That was all.

M. Berlioux: Nothing else. So, it took my conception of sport. I am old fashioned, as they say.

Interviewer: No. No. No. No. Well, I think maybe we should talk about what the IOC did in the past, in its meetings and the decisions that it made, and the sort of things that it's doing now. Maybe we can talk about that more tomorrow, because I think it will make more sense to people, because I don't think anyone knows really what is the IOC and your point about why should an athlete be there, deciding who the president is might say, "Well, why not? I mean they're athletes. They're competing at the Games. Shouldn't they have an opinion?" So, I think it will be important to get an idea of what sort of responsibilities the IOC members have in the meetings and the decisions that are made so that people can ...

M. Berlioux: And, the IOC has become, I would say in French, *une chambre d'enregistrement*. I don't know if you can translate that for me, but it's difficult, because decisions are made by the executive board, put before the IOC session, which agrees always.

Interviewer: Not always, but mostly.

M. Berlioux: Almost always.

Interviewer: Yes. Yes. Yes. Most always. Yes.

M. Berlioux: So, the IOC members have not much to say.

Interviewer: Yeah. That's why the ...

M. Berlioux: And, always the executive board decides.

Interviewer: That's why ...

M. Berlioux: And, now they have managed to make an executive out of 15 members.

Interviewer: Yes.

M. Berlioux: Which is far too much to work properly; therefore, they have plans. I remember that the executive board at one time was nine or 10 members, but the president used to call the first vice president to decide before, prior to the executive board what decisions it could make.

Interviewer: Right.

M. Berlioux: So, ...

Interviewer: To get a sense of what was important, and to talk it through, and to have sort of an inner group of people who had been around and looked at the issues.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: It's going to be very important when we talk about 1980 and 1984, well, and even 1976 and how the IOC members kept things going, or '72 ... '72, '76, '80, '84 I think we should talk about, but I'm getting tired myself. What do you think? Should we stop?

M. Berlioux: Oh, no. I'm all right if you are.

Interviewer: All right. Let's do it then. OK. Let's talk about how you became more influential within the IOC. You moved to Lausanne and began working there, originally as a press attaché for President Brundage. Is that ...

M. Berlioux: Yeah. I did with Lord Killanin, who was the one who asked me to come and help with the press writers, which I agreed to do.

Interviewer: How did he learn about you?

M. Berlioux: Because I went. He was at the press commission in London, where I went to present my project of making a film with my book.

Interviewer: Got it. OK.

M. Berlioux: And, that's how I met him the first time. So, he was looking for someone to take care of press and ... but life was a little bit difficult. The IOC was accommodated at Mon Repos, which is a good name for an international sports organization.

Interviewer: That's right. Let's just go to sleep.

M. Berlioux: We were supposed to follow the hours the concierge garden allowed us. Therefore, the doors were opened at 9:00, closed at 12:00, re-opened at 2:00, and closed at 6:00 or whatever. We had to do ... and I was not used to this type of schedule. Therefore, I always worked late at night and never early in the morning. I don't like it. But the office had become too small and Brundage had managed with the City of Lausanne to find another accommodation, which was Chateau de Ville, where we were accommodated after the Munich Games and we had more space. Then we had also more money, because the television rights were not yet in much. We had this very, very, very small part, but the cities gave a little more money to be in charge of the Games.

Interviewer: OK.

M. Berlioux: So, we could develop little by little, and even in '72, when Killanin started as president, I remember he wrote me a letter to say when you have several items don't use several pages, and use the same envelope.

Interviewer: They all had things written all over it. Oh, my.

M. Berlioux: Yeah, because you have to economize. Yeah.

Interviewer: Did it work?

M. Berlioux: Well, for a time yes.

Interviewer: Can you remember what size the budget would be for a year?

M. Berlioux: I would say it's a silly thing. I don't know. I should look in my files and see if I have some ... I'm not sure I have it.

Interviewer: Because now they're quite large each year.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: Quite large. Yeah.

M. Berlioux: You cannot compare what it was. It's even difficult to understand. Yeah. But we had enough to pay the staff. That was ...

Interviewer: Which is most important for sure.

M. Berlioux: Most important. But we lived, oh, yes, we lived on borrowed money until '72, because we borrowed money to go to Germany, to Munich, at least two or three years prior to the Games. And, we did not have much money in Munich.

Interviewer: Afterwards?

M. Berlioux: Afterwards, when we had the television rights, which is how we could enlarge ourselves.

Interviewer: OK. How significant were the television rights then?

M. Berlioux: How ...

Interviewer: How much were the television rights?

M. Berlioux: I must look.

Interviewer: OK. That's all right.

M. Berlioux: In my old papers.

Interviewer: I know that 1980 the television rights went to \$85 million, so it must have been significantly less than that.

M. Berlioux: Oh, yes. Much less.

Interviewer: Yeah.

M. Berlioux: I think for ... I would say \$35 million for Montreal maybe, but this has to be divided with the international federations and the national Olympic committees.

Interviewer: Yeah.

M. Berlioux: Ten percent would go to the IOC.

Interviewer: OK, but the IOC divided it up, so ...

M. Berlioux: Mm-hmm. Oh, they were in long discussions and as a federation, divided the money between themselves and athletics, of course, chose the biggest part.

Interviewer: Still does.

M. Berlioux: Yes. It still does.

Interviewer: Yeah. OK. By the way, they just announced that for London the total amount would be ... I'm not going to say ... that it would be ... it's 75 percent larger than it was from China, which is amazing, 75 percent increase.

M. Berlioux: Yes. Including the ... only television rights I mean?

Interviewer: The television rights ... That was because we were at the meeting in St. Petersburg and that was for the sports federations. Yes, the top money, that's pretty much for the national Olympic committees. That's how that's been divided, although, the pot of money is completely different. The top money is tiny compared with the television money, because in part the deal, the television deal with NBC is enormous. I think it's over \$2 billion.

M. Berlioux: It is still NBC?

Interviewer: Yeah. We would do well to be nice to NBC, because NBC has made a significant investment over time and would want to continue that investment, and they've been good ... they've been good to the games. NBC has been sold. It used to be a part of GE, but GE split it off and sold it, and the people at Comcast, which is a company out of Philadelphia, purchased it and they seem to be as nice as the people from Comcast. I'm sorry, the people from Comcast are very nice and they're taking over NBC and I think they're going to do a good job for it. GE decided that it wanted to get out of the business of doing television and just focus on its other businesses.

M. Berlioux: What is GE?

Interviewer: General Electric. I'm sorry.

M. Berlioux: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: Yeah, which is a huge corporation, but they decided to look at their business plan and take television out of it, among some other things.

Interviewer: I thought it would be interesting to learn a little bit more about your introduction to the executive board of the International Olympic Committee. Yesterday we talked about how you had the book that you had written and you wanted to propose a movie.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: Unfortunately, you had had a small accident.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: And, ...

M. Berlioux: A big ...

Interviewer: A big accident. And, could you explain how you presented yourself before the executive board of the IOC?

M. Berlioux: Well, I don't remember very well in fact, because I suppose I wrote ... it was not the executive board. It was the commission for press.

Interviewer: OK.

M. Berlioux: Which had been created by Brundage and Lord Killanin was in charge of that.

Interviewer: OK.

M. Berlioux: And, the meeting was in London, so one way or the other, I suppose I wrote to Lord Killanin and asked for an interview and then I was granted that interview and I came in the room, but I was in a wheelchair, because I could not put a foot down. Certainly, it was a surprise for all these gentlemen and he remembered me, maybe because of that. When I left them the secretary general, Westerhoff, came with me to accompany me and asked if I would be interested in working for the IOC, because they wanted to set up a press office, which they had not until that time. This is how I came to be recruited by the IOC to work for them as press officer.

Interviewer: So, from a wheelchair with a broken leg to being a press officer.

M. Berlioux: Yes. I remember the first time I came to Lausanne, and Mon Repos, where the headquarters of the IOC were. I had to climb the stairs sitting on each step to get up to the second floor, which was a long way.

Interviewer: But you had the upper body strength to push up each time.

M. Berlioux: Yeah. Absolutely. Absolutely.

Interviewer: Yes.

M. Berlioux: Well, that lasted not very long, maybe one month, but when you are handicapped it's quite a long time.

Interviewer: Yeah.

M. Berlioux: Then at the times there were only three or four people working for the IOC, English girls, and I wanted one to be my secretary and mind you, she refused because I was a woman.

Interviewer: Oh, interesting.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: She did not want to work for a woman?

M. Berlioux: No. I was so surprised of this discrimination. Yes. Then I set up a news center first and my first issue was about the Mediterranean Games, which were held in Naples, Italy. Israel had not been invited, so I thought that it was a shame that they were not invited and I got a reprimand from my boss, because, of course, I did not know there had been talks between the two NOCs and Israel had agreed not to come. So, that was a good start if I may say so.

Then little by little I worked with Brundage. And, the Secretary General Westerhoff was not in very good terms with Brundage because he was pushing Lord Exeter, the Englishman, to be president, because there was a re-election coming. I go back. That was in '64.

Interviewer: OK.

M. Berlioux: And, he had supported Lord Exeter against Brundage, who was the president, if I make myself clear.

Interviewer: Oh, yes. That's a problem always.

M. Berlioux: So, that's a big problem and Brundage had resented this. I can understand. You too, I presume. So, the rapport was not very good.

Secondly, Westerhoff imagined he was the secretary of ... you know ... that the presidency was only a show if I may say so. So, he stepped over Brundage, who did not like it. And, Westerhoff was very much leaving Lausanne to go to his farm near Zurich. He had it in Switzerland. So, I was in charge, in fact, of the office and when the separation, the split between Westerhoff and the IOC came I was put in charge of the administration. There were also problems because Westerhoff had recorded young girls, who he courted, which was not very appreciated by the IOC members, you know, little things like that. So, he gave his resignation.

Interviewer: So, he resigned as a member. Was he a member of the IOC?

M. Berlioux: No. No. No. No. No.

Interviewer: No. He was staff. OK.

M. Berlioux: He left in January '69.

Interviewer: Did you ... May I go back a moment? Did you go to the Mexico City Games?

M. Berlioux: Yes. Definitely.

Interviewer: As a part of the press bureau or what was your position?

M. Berlioux: What was my position? I was in between Westerhoff on one side and Brundage on the other. We were staying in the Hotel Camino Real in Mexico.

Interviewer: That's right.

M. Berlioux: Which is a huge hotel and one was one side and the other was on the other side. I was always pushing between the two, because they did not speak to each other. So, that was not a very pleasant moment.

Interviewer: Interesting.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: We now know that before the Games there was a lot of unrest in the city. Was the IOC aware of that?

M. Berlioux: Oh, yes. Of course, we were aware, but as it happened several times in the IOC history, they said that everything, which was not sport should be forgotten. That was the problem with Berlin in '36, because the Games were used by the regime in Germany, and the Games went on in Mexico, whatever the conditions and the shootings before the Games were. And, later, after Munich in '72, when Brundage said, "The Games must go on," which they have done, and also, when the boycotts arrived in ... first in Montreal, then in Moscow, then in Los Angeles.

Interviewer: So, the tradition of despite what politically was happening, the Games, the sport had to continue?

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: Because ... OK, that's very important. Was there a discussion within the executive board about the political situation?

M. Berlioux: Yes. There was discussion to know what they wanted to do, if they wanted to pursue or [inaudible] the Games or not, and it was decided that what was sport was one thing, which was the recriminations of the people in Mexico was another thing.

Interviewer: When there were discussions were members strongly in favor of or opposed to, or were people just always saying, "The Games must go on."?

M. Berlioux: There were discussions, yes, at the time. It was not ... They were not agreeing to everything, but Avery Brundage had a quality, if I may say so, when he wanted something he was able to come back to that thing several times and he kept the members in the room so long as they would agree with him. And, it happened that we worked until 2:00 in the morning.

Interviewer: Oh, my goodness.

M. Berlioux: And, he was adamant he wanted what he wanted to be their wishes and the unanimity of the executive board was paramount.

Interviewer: And, so until you became unanimous you could not leave the room?

M. Berlioux: Yes. He wanted it unanimous, so if it was not unanimous it started again, the whole thing.

Interviewer: Interesting. Interesting.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: Do you remember any discussions about the two athletes from the United States, John Carlos and Tommie Smith, when they stood on the awards stand and made the ...

M. Berlioux: When they [M. Berlioux raises her fist]?

Interviewer: Yes?

M. Berlioux: Yes. Who was more excited? It was really funny, because when ... I think it was Lord Exeter who gives the medals to these athletes.

Interviewer: I think that's correct. That's what I recall.

M. Berlioux: Yes. And, he was not seeing them, because he was turned to see the flags.

Interviewer: Oh, yes. Yes.

M. Berlioux: Which were raised. So, he did not see the men lifting their ...

Interviewer: Their hands.

M. Berlioux: Their hands.

Interviewer: Yes.

M. Berlioux: And, after that he was amazed not to have seen anyone stop the ceremony. So, he was very furious during the meeting and wanted to punish them.

Interviewer: Ah.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: So, he was the one who was angry that ... that he felt that if he had seen it he would have stopped the ceremony?

M. Berlioux: Yes. Probably he would not have given the medals.

Interviewer: But he's already given the medals.

M. Berlioux: Yes. But he would have left the ceremony instead of standing along with them.

Interviewer: Interesting, interesting. OK. So, he was angry about the fact that he didn't see it and he didn't stop it.

M. Berlioux: And, it was decided to send home the athletes.

Interviewer: So, it was the IOC that wanted the athletes to go home? It wasn't the U.S. Olympic Committee?

M. Berlioux: No. No. It was the IOC who asked the USOC to take them back. Yeah.

Interviewer: This is very important in the U.S.

M. Berlioux: The IOC was also, if I remember right, also afraid that the first demonstration could be enlarged later, so they had to make a point.

Interviewer: And, again, the problem was that these were the ceremonies of the International Olympic Committee, they were the ceremonies of sport, the athletes, the victors would be celebrated.

M. Berlioux: Yeah and demonstrated for politics. That has always been the case with the IOC. They tried to separate themselves, to exclude themselves from politics.

Interviewer: From politics.

M. Berlioux: Which they can't avoid.

Interviewer: It's interesting to exclude from politics when the flags are raised and the national anthems are played.

M. Berlioux: Yes. Absolutely.

Interviewer: The athletes wear the uniforms of their country with great pride.

M. Berlioux: And, there was a proposal from Prince de Hanovre [Prince George William of Hanover], who was a member of the IOC at the time, to eliminate flags and anthems, and this was refused by the IOC members, because it was put to a vote and it was refused.

Interviewer: It was actually voted on?

M. Berlioux: Yep.

Interviewer: Interesting.

M. Berlioux: I'm not sure, but it must have been in Mexico it happened.

Interviewer: So, after those Games was there more discussion about politics in sport and how to avoid anything at the awards ceremony?

M. Berlioux: There were always some problems, political ones. I heard there was a girl from South Africa, who was not permitted to take part in the Games. She had a British passport, but that wasn't sufficient, because she was coming from South Africa and we had a big problem in '72 of Rhodesia, which was excluded from the Games. So, each session we had political problems to deal with.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. Now we kind of ... I would like to ask you when did you become in charge of the administration? What year was that?

M. Berlioux: After I was in charge after Westerhoff left.

Interviewer: And, that was after 1968?

M. Berlioux: It was '69.

Interviewer: '69.

M. Berlioux: And, I was in ... There were three posts. One was administration. One was press and one was technique. I was in charge of the two first ones and they nominated a technical director, who was Takac from Yugoslavia.

Interviewer: Interesting.

M. Berlioux: Whom we did not get very well together. He was not straightforward. He was devious and I couldn't stand it and he was always complaining that he had not this or that.

Interviewer: So, he had to report to you?

M. Berlioux: No.

Interviewer: No?

M. Berlioux: He refused.

Interviewer: He refused. OK.

M. Berlioux: He reported to the executive and the technical matters, but there were things which were ... which should have been treated together, which made life difficult. He never told me when he would go away, for example. So, that wasn't a very pleasant time.

Interviewer: So, if there were questions that had to be addressed, he would not cooperate. Interesting.

M. Berlioux: And, then after Montreal he left the IOC suddenly to go to the Montreal Organizing Committee. This was difficult for Lord Killanin, who had been elected president, resented it very much, because he had not been aware of the departure. So, we had another technical director, who was Harry Banks, from Great Britain.

Interviewer: Yes.

M. Berlioux: Unfortunately, he died in Lausanne while in office. So, to replace him they took Arpad Csanadi, who was from Hungary. Who was a member of the IOC. So, that was a very strange situation again, because he was a member of the IOC. I was a member of the staff and he was under me, if I may say so, as technical director.

Interviewer: Yes. Now, the technical director basically dealt with the sports and ...

M. Berlioux: Yeah. And, with federations and national Olympic committees. But again, as administration director, I had to deal also with these two bodies. That's where the things were always a little bit uneasy.

Interviewer: Of course, yes. Yes. And, so who was responsible for the legal aspects with the organizing committees.

M. Berlioux: I was.

Interviewer: All of the contracts with the organizing committees, and with the television, and for all the rights, and ...

M. Berlioux: Well, the IOC delegated almost everything to the organizing committees when they were elected, but we had to look at what they were doing, if they were doing right or wrong. But at the bottom this was the organizing committee, which was in charge.

Interviewer: That's a lot of responsibility to take.

M. Berlioux: Yes. But as early as the Games of Montreal we discussed things between the organizing committee and the IOC, the contracts, and later I managed to have the rules changed so that the IOC would be the one to deal with the television contracts and not the organizing committee. But the IOC gave two thirds of the money to the organizing committee and kept only one third at the time, which is strange also.

Interviewer: Yes. That was ... well, I think at the time the television, for example, television rights fees were rather modest, although ...

M. Berlioux: Very modest.

Interviewer: Compared to today.

M. Berlioux: We were ... and we did not know, because before '72 we were ... the IOC was living on borrowed money from Munich. I don't know if I told you this.

Interviewer: No. Could you explain that, please?

M. Berlioux: Excuse me?

Interviewer: Could you explain that?

M. Berlioux: Yeah. Because the IOC was living with the money from the members, and from the deposit, which the organizing cities were asked to give to be awarded the Games, but that was a small amount of money and thanks to Westerhoff ... He borrowed money from Munich until the end of the Games, expecting to have more money from television so we could live the three years between '69 and '72 with borrowed money, which we reimbursed after the Games with what the IOC got from television.

Interviewer: I see.

M. Berlioux: And, after that we ... With Montreal we made a contract to be sure that we would have enough money and the contract with television rights was agreeable to the IOC.

Interviewer: I see. So, ...

M. Berlioux: But the organizing committee negotiated with a submitted contract to us, so we could have pulled it.

Interviewer: Now, the television in Europe was the European Broadcast Union, the EBU.

M. Berlioux: The Union. Yes.

Interviewer: OK. And, in the United States for Montreal it was ABC, and for Canada it was CBC?

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: Was the television in the rest of the world or was it ...

M. Berlioux: There was the Asian Group also and I think that was almost all at the beginning.

Interviewer: So, it was the press ... the written press was more important than the televised ... well, not more important. Originally all there was ...

M. Berlioux: The written press did not pay any fee.

Interviewer: That's right. They were an expense for the organizing committee, as a matter of fact.

M. Berlioux: Yeah, but they had the publicity from the press, not always a good one, but ...

Interviewer: You can't always determine.

M. Berlioux: You can't win on both sides.

Interviewer: Yes. So, you were involved with helping the IOC understand that it needed to take more responsibility for what was going on. It's interesting to me that the ceremonies across time seem to be exactly the same. Was that because of the Olympic Charter?

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: OK. And, because I don't know if there was no other real requirement except that once you became the host organizing committee you had to ...

M. Berlioux: No, there was something funny, because for the opening ceremony you have the birds and the shooting of a cannon, and there was a big discussion in the IOC whether the birds should go first, but the cannons would frighten them. The cannon shoot first and the birds would not get out of their cages.

Interviewer: Yes.

M. Berlioux: So, we had a big argument and I cannot remember what was decided ... if the birds should go first or the shooting take place.

Interviewer: Was that for Mexico City or ...

M. Berlioux: I can't remember where it was, when it was, but it was at some time.

Interviewer: Well, it was very funny. In Seoul they let the birds go first, but then they lit the flame. Unfortunately, many of the birds landed on the tower where the flame was going to be lit, so you could see what was about to happen.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: As the flame got near and everyone's looking at the birds sitting there. So, unfortunately, after that, the IOC had a discussion and they decided that there would be no more live birds.

The other solution was to light the flame before you released the birds, which I thought was a much cleaner solution than not having live birds. But I didn't realize that there had been the tradition of shooting a cannon. That did not happen in Montreal, so it must have been either in Munich or Mexico City. If you remember the discussion it must have been some time in Mexico City or Munich.

M. Berlioux: Yes. Yes.

Interviewer: But there was no cannon in Montreal. So, someone decided that that was a bad idea. So, some things change over time.

M. Berlioux: Yes, but small things if I may say so.

Interviewer: Small adjustments. Small adjustments.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: What was ... how did someone become a member of the International Olympic Committee during the time that you were there? What was the process?

M. Berlioux: Well, during the session, the president used to go and meet every possible candidate personally and had a long interview, and then

decided that Mr. X would be better than Mr. Y. Then he put forward the names to the executive board and the executive board generally agreed.

In 1970, I think it was in 1970, in Amsterdam, Henry Su from Taiwan was proposed as a member and many people rejected him because he was from Taiwan and there was already the big problem of China coming back to the Games. And, for the first time to my knowledge, this was put to the Session, the vote was put to the Session whether Henry Su would be elected or not. Brundage had stated before that he had ... I don't remember exactly, 32 votes in favor, therefore, the majority, and the members objected. He said, "Well, we put that to a vote and he received 32 votes," and he was elected.

Interviewer: How about that?

M. Berlioux: But I cannot remember any ... maybe now it's put to a vote to the Session ...

Interviewer: Yes.

M. Berlioux: But usually it was accepted by the executive board unanimously and then sent to the Session.

Interviewer: Unanimously?

M. Berlioux: Unanimously.

Interviewer: Everyone is elected now, even though it is by secret ballot. It's possible to be rejected by the full session. The executive board is responsible for nominating, which means responsible for carrying out the will of the president basically, but it is actually an election now.

So, I don't think that the president meets with every possible candidate, as Mr. Brundage or President Samaranch did.

M. Berlioux: Unfortunately, because they should be more careful, in my opinion, about selecting people. In our time, even when members were chosen because of their excellent work in their country and their position and what they could bring. But now you have another category of members, who might be physical education teachers, who would never have been elected under Brundage or Lord Killanin or even Samaranch's time.

Interviewer: Well, now they come in because they might be president of an international federation. They might be president of their National Olympic Committee. There's still the individual member, who should be, because of their resume, their standing within their country, or because they're important to sport. Then we have the athletes. Do you want to speak for a moment about your concern about athletes being elected?

M. Berlioux: Yes, because I think to get the advice from athletes is a very good thing, but to go as far as electing them members is too much, because they don't know enough of the world, of the politics of the world, and they should not be able to vote as soon as they are elected. They should be given time to give advice and then maybe in the future be elected full members, but I don't think it's a good thing if you see the last athlete elected, who is from my country, who is a very good man, but he's too new to the IOC to be able to vote for a president, which he will do.

Interviewer: No he won't. Oh, actually, he will. You're right. He will, because he was elected in London, although he hasn't been elected an IOC member yet. He hasn't been sworn in yet. That's a good point. He'll be sworn in in July.

M. Berlioux: Yeah. And, he will vote. To my knowledge he does not know what the IOC is. He knows very well about his sport. He's a great champion, but that's not to my mind enough, because he takes several years ... oh, there was a member in Denmark, who was a very good member, who died very young, who said when you get ... who said to another colleague, when you arrive at the IOC you must spend 10 years before asking for the floor.

Interviewer: Oh, my.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: I would have been booted out.

M. Berlioux: But it's an image.

Interviewer: Yes.

M. Berlioux: In fact, you have to spend several years to be able to know the things. I suppose you have the experience of that also.

Interviewer: I did, but coming from where I come from I could not help myself. I didn't realize. No. People forgot to tell me that you're not

supposed to speak your first session, and I didn't know. The question had to do with whether or not ... Actually, it was on the question of tennis, whether tennis should be brought back into the program of the Games. I considered the question and I listened to some of the discussion, and then I raised my hand and I offered only that I thought it was unfair that athletes were being discriminated against because within their sport the only way you could find out who was the best was to compete and because, in their sport, when you competed there were prizes and money. Why should you say that they're not allowed to be Olympians because they have ...

M. Berlioux: Because of money.

Interviewer: Because of money.

M. Berlioux: I know money is a problem and that's a shame, because I wonder where is the Olympic ideal now, in money?

Interviewer: Tell me more about your concern about money. Money certainly makes it possible for athletes to train.

M. Berlioux: Yeah, but it's not a given. It's very good to give the possibility to an athlete to train and it gives them what they need to train, but to pay them, to offer them if they have a gold medal ... I say anything, \$50,000.00 or \$1 million, that's a shame. I don't agree at all with that. Every big country now states that if I have an Olympic champion I will give him so much, which is bad.

Interviewer: It is odd to me, because as an athlete ...

M. Berlioux: I mean it's only a few athletes who can get it.

Interviewer: Oh, yes. Only one per event.

M. Berlioux: So, the Olympic idea to have everybody be able to participate and to compete. It's certainly for a very few on both hands, maybe even less.

Interviewer: But isn't it odd that you have to be successful before you get the support. What happens as you're working towards being successful?

M. Berlioux: But the money should go to the base firstly, to the little clubs, to the little coaches in the country, who are volunteers mostly, and who could be helped. With all of the money spent you could build

swimming pools, gymnastic stadiums, a stadium to learn to ... a stadium to be opened 24 hours a day if necessary, which is not the case, at least in my country.

Interviewer: That's true.

M. Berlioux: And, the swimming pools are restricted and to be able to train you have to go with the public. It's not ... which you have no money and these are the ones who should be given and just should teach the champions to give and not to receive only.

Interviewer: Now, the money for Olympic Solidarity, how did that get started, the idea of Olympic Solidarity?

M. Berlioux: Well, the money was to be divided ... the money received by the IOC ... we forget about the organizing committee ... was to be divided between IOC federations, and NOCs. It was very simple for the federations, because there were 21 or 20-something federations, because it has changed along with everything else. But for the NOCs, which were over 100, it was more difficult to divide the money. Therefore, someone had the idea of putting a fund to help poor countries to develop sport in their countries and this was called solidarity.

This, again, is something which is difficult to differentiate, because the money came from the United States. The U.S. Olympic Committee did not get much from Olympic Solidarity. Whether African countries got a lot from Olympic Solidarity and Europeans, in between, did not get much. So, that was discrimination there.

Interviewer: I guess the question is, OK, the money came from the Olympic Games. It exists because money was paid for the Olympic Games to exist. If you don't have national Olympic committees to compete in the Olympic Games, you don't have Olympic Games. But how you divide up the money among – now we have 205 – national Olympic committees? Now the money is a lot larger, of course, that's divided up, but is it possible to be fair in sport?

M. Berlioux: No.

Interviewer: It's not possible to be fair.

M. Berlioux: From the beginning. Yeah.

Interviewer: The IOC used to be smaller. What do you think is the right size for membership of the IOC?

M. Berlioux: Well, first of all, I think the IOC should be above federations and national Olympic committees.

Interviewer: What do you mean by above?

M. Berlioux: Above. There should not be a member of the IOC who, at the same time, is president of a federation, or an Olympic committee, or both as Lord Exeter was. Because I remember when we were discussing something Exeter was either an IOC member, or either was an IF athletics member, [or] either an NOC. So, he was three ways. So, I think an IOC member should not be any part of these two, because it's a different situation. Therefore, the membership should be smaller, much smaller than it is now. I would say maybe 75 members would be a good number to be able to know each other, because now at 120 or whatever it is, the members do not know each other. They have no time, because the session lasts three days and in three days you cannot speak to everybody.

Interviewer: The Sessions now are open. They're open. I shouldn't say they're open. They're televised, which means that whoever is speaking is on the screen and if you're sitting next to someone who is on the screen you might be on the screen, and if you're sleeping next to someone on the screen you'll be shown sleeping on the screen. But how do you feel about whether the meetings are open to press.

M. Berlioux: No, I don't think they should be open.

Interviewer: Why is that?

M. Berlioux: Because members do not ... When you are televised you don't speak freely. You mind what other people will think of you. In a restricted area you can speak more freely.

Interviewer: Leading up to the 1976 Games there were discussions about a potential boycott. Do you remember those discussions?

M. Berlioux: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: It had to do with the African countries and ...

M. Berlioux: We had ... In Montreal there was a problem of China first, which was discussed.

Interviewer: Oh, yeah. China too.

M. Berlioux: Taiwan was not admitted by Canada for apparently it had a contract with China. And, as the IOC ... I don't know if it existed at the time, had asked the government to sign an agreement that the athletes selected by all of their national Olympic committees will be able to enter the country, but Canada did not keep its word agreement. It was total, final. Therefore, there was a big argument between the pros and cons and finally we got an agreement regarding this problem and I was going back to my own ... very, at last, at last satisfied that it was all over when I met an African man called Ganga, who later became a member of the IOC.

Interviewer: Jean Claude Ganga?

M. Berlioux: Jean Claude Ganga, who handed me a letter stating now that China is finished you have to deal with us and that was the menace of the boycott, which it carried on. And, Mzali, who was a member of Tunisia, was furious to have to boycott because of the pressure put by the Africans on countries like Tunisia, which was not ... which did not want to boycott the Games.

Interviewer: I believe it was a group called the ... was it the Organization of African Unions?

M. Berlioux: Yes. African Unity. Yes.

Interviewer: The Supreme Council of Africa.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: The Supreme Council of Africa. So, it was ... there were two political ... two organizations as I recall in Africa. One was the political one and the other was the sports one.

M. Berlioux: Right, so-called.

Interviewer: Yes. And, the sports one was represented by Jean Claude Ganga.

M. Berlioux: Yes. Yeah.

Interviewer: But it was the political one that had the power to really say that we need to take the athletes home. Some athletes were already in Montreal and they were called back before the Games began, which is very sad.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

[End of Audio]
1 June 2013

Interviewer: [We were discussing the Montreal Olympic boycott by African nations.] Rhodesia ... Rhodesia had become Zimbabwe, or was it still Rhodesia?

M. Berlioux: *[Inaudible]*

Interviewer: I'm sorry. It was New Zealand that had competed against South Africa.

M. Berlioux: Oh, yes, but in rugby or something which was not in the Olympic Games. That was a false pretext.

Interviewer: Yes, and that was a pretext of saying that, therefore, if we allow New Zealand, if the IOC allowed New Zealand to compete at the Olympic Games, it would be a great insult to Africa because this was a country that had competed with South Africa in a sport that was not controlled by any part of the Olympic movement.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: So,, was that discussed before people arrived in Montreal or was that a part of the discussion of the Session in Montreal?

M. Berlioux: No, it wasn't before. It was during the Session.

Interviewer: So, it was really too late to do anything.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: Interesting. I'm going move a little forward to 1977, '78 when the Games were awarded to Los Angeles in 1977. Finally Los Angeles had bid three times [consecutively] before, and each time another city had won. Can you say anything about how ... Let me start again. I understand that Los Angeles bid first for the 1976 Games, and there was ... Moscow was bidding also. Then suddenly, Montreal came in. I thought Montreal originally ...

M. Berlioux: I know Montreal came much earlier than that. They were the first to come. The mayor was Jean Drapeau, and he was touring all over the world to get the Games in Montreal because he had been very successful. I think it was '67 for the big [World's] Fair in Montreal, and then he wanted to have the Games. And, that's a little story I will tell you. He came once to ... in my office and said, "What could

I give to Mr. Brundage to get his vote and that he'll be comfortable with Montreal and so forth?" And, I said, "Nothing because he will refuse." And, he insisted and insisted and insisted, and I say, "Well, Montreal is land of fur. Give him a fur coat." And, he did. And, Brundage refused. And, then Drapeau came back and said, "Well, he's furious now against me. That was a bad idea."

Interviewer: But you warned him that it was a bad idea.

M. Berlioux: Yes, but no matter. I think it was Mayor Yorty for Los Angeles ...

Interviewer: No, for New York. Oh, Los Angeles, you're right. Yorty. You are right.

M. Berlioux: For the Games of Los Angeles, it was Yorty who presented, and he was not very well accepted by the IOC members.

Interviewer: And, then?

M. Berlioux: And, then there was Moscow also, but nobody wanted Moscow at that time.

Interviewer: OK. Then I had heard that President Nixon actually offered moon rocks as a part of the potential gift. He wanted to give the IOC member moon rocks. No fur coats from the U.S., but a little moon rock. I don't know if that was true or not.

M. Berlioux: I don't know.

Interviewer: Then ... so Montreal wins, the Games happen, there's the boycott of the African nations.

M. Berlioux: Yes, but before the Games started, we had a lot of problem with the unions in Montreal, and to be able to complete the stadium, it was terrible because there was a rule that to build a tower of the stadium, the workers had to spend 15 minutes to go up, 15 minutes to go down, spend one quarter of an hour rest, and then they worked one quarter of an hour in total. So, that was ... we had big, big, big problems before.

Interviewer: I understand also that the architect was a French architect.

M. Berlioux: Yes, Taillibert.

Interviewer: Who specialized in a technique that they didn't have.

M. Berlioux: Yes, and he was French and it ... and the high complaint the Canadians had from the past was that France let them down and Quebec always resented the French people. But Drapeau was happy to hire his favorite architect who was Taillibert, who was a very good architect ... who is still, I hope.

Interviewer: Beautiful designs for the venues and so forth, but difficult to realize the designs.

M. Berlioux: Yes, but the unions got involved to show that he was unable to complete the stadium.

Interviewer: What did you think of those Games?

M. Berlioux: Montreal?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

M. Berlioux: Well, I had big problems with the press. There was a journalist. I don't know the name of ... his name was Pinar, but I don't know the name of the newspaper, and I had said that there was no soul in Montreal, which was a very bad thing to say publicly because I was never forgiven for that.

Interviewer: No soul, huh?

M. Berlioux: You could not feel in Montreal that Olympic Games were going on. If you were not in the stadium, you were in another part of the town, you could not feel the Games, which I had probably expressed badly.

Interviewer: No, you expressed it ... they speak French in Quebec, don't they?

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: Huh. So, there was no flags, no signs of the Olympic Games except ...

M. Berlioux: Yes, there were, but very scarce. Very scarce. And, I was accused of all types of things by this newspaper, and Drapeau came to see me at my hotel. He was very, very kind.

Interviewer: He's a good man.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: OK, now, in 1977, Los Angeles finally wins the right to host the [1984] Games. They bid three times.

M. Berlioux: I think we are the only country to bid for the Games.

Interviewer: Now, why do you think they were the only country? Why was that?

M. Berlioux: I have no explanation because ... I don't know. Because they thought there was so much bad publicity before the Montreal Games, that nobody wanted to take the risk also of staging Games which would cost a lot of money and the budget for the organizing committee, it's very amusing because they always said that the Games would cost a lot of money. But as they counted their budget, the establishment of a metro line, their construction of the Olympic Village, which afterwards was used, et cetera, et cetera. So, I think cities were hesitant to spend money.

Interviewer: So, it had nothing to do with the fact that Los Angeles had bid ... this was their third bid. Each time they really wanted the Games and ... no? They thought ... OK. So, finally nobody else wanted it.

M. Berlioux: Finally the IOC was very happy to have one candidate.

Interviewer: Yes, I guess so. It must have been frightening that there had been no candidates for the Games. That would have been interesting. But once they said yes, then they said, by the way, we will not have ... our city will not take financial responsibility for it. What was ... what happened when ... within the IOC?

M. Berlioux: I don't understand the question.

Interviewer: The City of Los Angeles said, "Thank you very much. We'd like to host the Games, but we're not going have any financial responsibility. There'll be an organizing committee, but it'll be in the private sector, not the government."

M. Berlioux: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: It wasn't a problem?

M. Berlioux: No, it was not a problem because the IOC never wanted to deal with governments at the time, and they put things very much apart. One was a government, the other the organizing committee. Whether there were people from the government in the organizing committee was another matter.

Interviewer: My understanding is that this is the first time that the government hadn't been involved with an organizing committee, that it was completely on its own with no financial guarantor, and it was the riskiest that the Games had ever been.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: And, you came and met the people in Los Angeles and there was this new man, Peter Ueberroth, who had never done anything in sport. What did you think of him?

M. Berlioux: Well, I think he was a great president of an organizing committee. It was difficult to deal with him, but he was very straight. You could trust him. He did not go backwards, and he made a very good job because you were very successful. He had money.

Interviewer: Yep, interesting. Los Angeles earned money in 1932 during the Depression. There was a surplus of \$1.2 million [which was used to retire the state bond that financed the Games]. In between Montreal and Los Angeles was the Moscow Games. What was it like dealing with the Soviet Union, because most certainly the government was absolutely involved with those Games?

M. Berlioux: Yes, absolutely because their president of the organizing committee was vice prime minister of USSR called Novikov, who later became ... went to ... no, that's another story I should not go tell.

Interviewer: OK, very good. Yes. So, the ...

M. Berlioux
M. Berlioux:

In Moscow, the president of the organizing committee was, at the time, Vice Prime Minister of USSR. So, you can imagine that the government was not involved at all.

Interviewer: Not a bit.

M. Berlioux: Yes. But I liked Novikov in a way because we had many arguments, but we always could speak freely to one another. And, I remember Lord Killanin was president at the time, and when I went to discuss television contracts with Novikov and so forth, and Lord Killanin said, "Good-bye," to me and, "Be tough."

Interviewer: Oh, so it was up to you.

M. Berlioux: Up to me. So, I remember Novikov was infuriated because I would not agree to what he was saying, and he was like Khrushchev at the time, pounding the table and so forth. But finally, he accepted my proposal, so I was very happy.

Interviewer: What did you want that he didn't want?

M. Berlioux: I can't remember what it was, but I remember the scene which came in front of me and –

Interviewer: But he came to understand that you were correct.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: Were there disappointments about the way the Games were put on or were you happy with ... of course the exception of the boycott, but the actual Games, then we'll get to the political.

M. Berlioux: I think the Games were good. The opening ceremony was fantastic, I think. While we have seen better later, but that was a very good show. And, on the sports point of view, it was very well ... done.

Interviewer: I'd like to get to the part of the politics and the discussion of keeping the Games in Moscow and President Carter. Can we talk about that? It's OK?

M. Berlioux: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: OK. So, in 1979, I've left my law practice because I wanted to train. I don't want to have any regrets about my last year in sport. I decided I'd do this until 1980. So, I've done all these things, and in December, we learn that the Soviet Union is about to invade Afghanistan. Now, most Americans have no idea where Afghanistan is and certainly don't realize that there is a common border, and most of us think, well who cares about that. But then President Carter, after the Iranian Embassy has been taken over and we have hostages, he's desperate for something, and he decides that, well, what we can do is we can make sure that the Soviets, because they have the Olympic Games, will do what needs to be done, and we'll say that we will not send our athletes or our spectators if the Soviets don't remove their troops from the border of Afghanistan. How did this message come to the IOC?

M. Berlioux: Well, we had a Session for the Lake Placid Games at the time. It was at the end of January, and we could not believe that ... firstly,

we could not believe that there would be a boycott. Then we had to take it for granted, but the president decided ... I mean Lord Killanin decided to go and try to speak to Brezhnev, and he took me with him to the big, I must say as a parenthesis, to the big disappointment of Samaranch, who was ambassador Spain in Moscow at the time and who was not allowed to come to from the meeting with Brezhnev. But we had a meeting, and Brezhnev was adamant he did not want to take the troops back home. So, we left Moscow and then, one week later, we were at the White House to see President Carter. And, I remember very well Lord Killanin. They were talking together very well, but not mentioning the Games.

Interviewer: Not a word?

M. Berlioux: Not a word. And, then I said to Killanin, "But you have to put the question." And, he raised the question at the time, and Carter was convinced that they would respond, but that was some of what his aide Brzezinski was saying.

Interviewer: Brzezinski, yes.

M. Berlioux: Who was in the room.

Interviewer: Zbigniew Brzezinski.

M. Berlioux: And, he told Carter not to accept anything. So, we went back.

Interviewer: Interesting. Now, this is the IOC going to the president of the host country and saying, "Please take a political action."

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: Interesting. Very interesting. And, then the IOC going to another country and saying, "Please don't take a political action."

M. Berlioux: It's contradictory, but there are many contradictions within the IOC

Interviewer: No.

M. Berlioux: Yes, I think so. That's a good example.

Interviewer: Yes. So, what was the Session? There was a special Session to discuss the situation?

M. Berlioux: No.

Interviewer: No.

M. Berlioux: No, not even, no.

Interviewer: Was there a vote to talk about going or not going?

M. Berlioux: No, no, no.

Interviewer: This is important for people to know that.

M. Berlioux: Yes. No, no, no, there was not. The IOC went on ... The president was in charge. And, that was all. So, members followed.

Interviewer: There were people dispatched from the U.S. to go to nations around the world, to convince them not to ...

M. Berlioux: Oh yes, there was a big attempt at ... *Comment dit-on lavage de cerveau?* ... Brainwashing. But they were not successful. They sent one man who was a lawyer, maybe you can remember the name, but he ... I remember we had dinner with Thomas Keller who was the president of the international federations at the time. We had dinner, and we saw that the man did not know anything about sport or the IOC. And, he was the one who was sent to try to tell people not to go to the Games, but he was not a good advocate. I can't remember the name, actually, but you ...

Interviewer: I probably didn't know. I was busy trying to tell people in the U.S. this is ridiculous, that we have to go to the Games, that if we don't go, the Soviet people will say, "Well, we didn't come because we were afraid we were going lose." If we don't go, we won't meet the athletes and become friends and be able to do a better job in the world.

M. Berlioux: And, what is amazing now is that the people who won Olympic medals, either in Moscow or in Los Angeles, the general public does not imagine that there were no Americans in one side, no East[ern] countries in the other Games, and the Olympic medals were a different value in a way.

Interviewer: See, I don't believe that because the Games happened. Everyone knew when and where they were. I'm sorry that governments kept their athletes from being there, but you know the day, you know the place, you know the time, and if you have the courage to be there and prepared, and if you're not there, shame on you. Shame on us.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: Well, a gold medal is a gold medal.

M. Berlioux: Too bad for all the athletes.

Interviewer: Well, too bad. It was a horrible thing to have happen. Terrible thing to have happen. So, now the Games happen in Moscow. Were there any interesting stories from being in Moscow during the Games that ...

M. Berlioux: That you can ... that I can tell?

Interviewer: That you can tell, yes. If not ...

M. Berlioux: I can't remember anything, no.

Interviewer: OK.

M. Berlioux: Probably ... there was the election in Moscow at the Session, the election of

Interviewer: Tell us, how did this man who was from Spain become president of the IOC?

M. Berlioux: Oh, because he had that in mind for many, many years, and all his life was devoted to become the president of the IOC. That's very strange. And, he was determined... He was ... *Il etait favorisé* ... I am looking for a word I can't find. You can ... *etait favorisé* ...

Interviewer: Made himself favorite?

M. Berlioux: He was helped here maybe because of the boycott. And, his opponents were not as good as you could have expected, and Lord Killanin as president going out was supporting Jim Worrall from Canada.

Interviewer: Interesting.

M. Berlioux: But people had some bad memories of the Montreal Games at the time. There was Marc Hodler, who was president of the Ski Federation, but the IOC had many problems with ski. One from New Zealand was Lance Cross, and of course was ... I am sorry for him, but he was nobody in the IOC. I think he must have got two votes or so on. And, then there was a Daume, who was a ... could have been a very good president, but he suffered from the boycott

because his country boycotted the Games. So, Samaranch had a good possibilities and he had got in touch with everybody possibly to be chosen.

Interviewer: What did you think of him? Did you know him well by then?

M. Berlioux: Well, yes of course. And, I supported him. And, I remember when, unfortunately, I should say, but that's a fact I must recognize. He was coming to Lausanne very often and inviting me for dinner and speaking and he asked me to support him, and I said yes because, at the time, I did not know who would be a candidate. And, I clearly ... before the Session in which he was elected started, I remember Kiyokawa from Japan, who was managing the Asian votes, came to me and said for who should we vote, and I said Samaranch. And, probably this is why he got the majority on the first hand. But if he had not got the majority on the first hand, maybe it would have been more difficult. But I think, in view of the conditions prevailing at the time, he could have been elected, but not with this majority.

Interviewer: And, not the first round.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: So, were people surprised that someone would win on the first round?

M. Berlioux: Yeah, a little, yes. But the preceding election [was] between Killanin and Worrall. There were only two, so it was ...

Interviewer: OK, so the first rounds, it's one or the other. Interesting.

M. Berlioux: I wait for a question.

Interviewer: No, no, no. What would you want history to know about that election? What would you want the world to know about that election that they don't already know? Was there something about him becoming president that was ...

M. Berlioux: Because his achievement ...

Interviewer: Because he worked for it, believed he should be the president of the IOC.

M. Berlioux: Hmm?

Interviewer: He worked for this position.

M. Berlioux: Oh, yes, he worked for this for a long time. But what was surprising was that prior to being elected president, he was a member of the executive board. Then his term of office finished in '79, and he had to get out of for one year. No, it must have been in '78 he had to get out for one year, so he could be reelected in '79. And, he had ... so it is a little bit complicated, but I try to explain. There was one seat available for vice president, one seat for executive board. But if someone from the executive board was elected vice president, which was possible at the time, there would be two seats left for the executive. So, Kiyokawa was a member of the executive and won the election as the vice president. Then there were two other people left who were candidates. It was Siperco and Samaranch.

The first to be elected would be elected for four years. The second would be elected only for one year because completing the term of office of Kiyokawa. And, the vote was 37 for Samaranch, 36 for Siperco. And, I was very much surprised reading the autobiography of Samaranch, and he said that ... that was in Montevideo, and he said, "In Montevideo, I had a very easy election to the executive."

Interviewer: By one vote.

M. Berlioux: By one vote, yes. And, I ... So, maybe you heard this also that he said that he had decided to get rid of me as soon as he was elected President of the IOC, but he had planned it meticulously.

Interviewer: Hmm. Step by step.

M. Berlioux: And, that meticulous planning lasted for five years.

Interviewer: Yes, it did.

M. Berlioux: And, he ... when he was elected president, Samaranch read all the minutes of the meetings because he was not aware of what happened in the IOC because he was very quiet during the meetings of the executive board and voted always as the president wishes. So, he had to learn his way to ... and I suppose he did not get rid of me sooner because he needed my help in various matters because he did not know them.

Interviewer: No, of course. I do know that, for the Games in Los Angeles, you were absolutely essential, your knowledge of the Games and what needed to happen and who the members were and how we needed to make sure even things like the meetings with the chef de

missions and dealing with the national Olympic committees. There's so much to putting on the Olympic Games.

M. Berlioux: But it took me 18 years.

Interviewer: Yes. You had a great deal of knowledge. A great deal of knowledge. So, you think that he had ... he was afraid of you from the beginning?

M. Berlioux: Yes, I suppose so. Yes. Also, when was it? It was in Olympia. Samaranch was a speaker in Olympia and he criticized a lot the IOC and the president. So, Brundage learned it and was furious and sent a very nasty letter to Samaranch, and as I was at Olympia, I think Samaranch always believed that I had told Brundage what he had said.

Interviewer: Oh, interesting.

M. Berlioux: But the Greeks were so shocked that they had told Brundage.

Interviewer: Interesting. You supported a sport to be put on the program of the Games. That sport was synchronized swimming.

M. Berlioux: Yeah. Yes, of course, because it was very difficult ... There were rhythmic gymnastics who were a candidate to be introduced into Olympic program and synchronized swimming. And, I had convinced previously Killanin to come and see what was synchronized swimming. And, when we left the swimming pool, he said, "I can only see feet." So, he was not very pro ... synchronized swimming. So, when the ... before the vote came, I went to see the Russians because the Russians were very much pro ... gymnastics, of course, because they were very good at it. And, I said, "Well, if you vote for synchronized swimming, I support gymnastics." And, that was a deal we made. But gymnastic came to vote first, and gymnastic was elected. And, when they came to synchronized swimming, the Russians did not vote for synchronized swimming. And, I was asked by Killanin to count the votes because it was hard to see. And, when I saw the raised hands, there was not the majority. So, I turned to Killanin and I gave a number with the majority, and Killanin said, "Are you sure?" "Yes, sir."

Interviewer: You said, "Yes, sir," and the Russians just forgot to put their hands up.

M. Berlioux: And, then synchronized swimming was an Olympic medal event.

Interviewer: [Laughter] That's a wonderful story. So, if the Soviets had voted, would it have been the majority?

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: So, you helped them. So, people should be very ... the women in synchronized swimming should be very grateful to your existence.

M. Berlioux: I don't see it in my country, I must say.

Interviewer: Oh, people probably don't know. Juan Antonio also said, before he was elected that ... no, I think it was Lord Killanin that thought that a woman should be elected to the IOC. What was the history of this?

M. Berlioux: Yes, and that was very sad because he went to see the American champion of ice skating who was a doctor. Very famous.

Interviewer: I know exactly who you mean. I can't remember her name at the moment. She was a surgeon in Boston I think. [Editor's note: Tenley Albright]

M. Berlioux: We find the name in a moment. He went to see her and proposed her to be a member of the IOC, and she refused.

Interviewer: She refused. Why? She was a surgeon?

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: So, she could have been the first woman elected to the IOC.

M. Berlioux: Yes. Then after this refusal, he did not mention any more women. And, so now it was very successful with the first woman, the Finnish girl, who we voted ...

Interviewer: Pirjo Häggman.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: And, then Flor Isava-Fonseca.

M. Berlioux: Flor Isava, yeah.

Interviewer: Then Dame Mary. Then Princess Nora.

M. Berlioux: Yeah, that's really a good one.

Interviewer: Then me. Do you think that the IOC members resented women or just no one had been nominated? Why were there no women elected before?

M. Berlioux: Because it was the follow-up of Coubertin's ideas that women should not be part of the Olympic Games, I suppose. So, until maybe not 10, but 20 years ago, women were not accepted in any government also. There were very, very, very few.

Interviewer: But there was you.

M. Berlioux: I was not a member of the IOC. I was a staff doing maybe more than many members, but I was staff.

Interviewer: How were you viewed in France? They knew that there was a woman who was running the IOC.

M. Berlioux: I was always ignored by my compatriots, always.

Interviewer: Even the French members of the IOC?

M. Berlioux: Oh, no. Only Count Jean de Beaumont was very kind. Also I had worked for him before, so ... but as the president of the French Olympic Committee.

Interviewer: OK.

M. Berlioux: And, Denis Masegla is the president of the French committee, he's kind as well.

Interviewer: Now, yes. Yes, yes, Denis Masegla.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: [Can we talk] a little bit about the 1984 Olympic Games?

M. Berlioux: Yes, why not? But you know as well as me.

Interviewer: Well, I don't know how you felt about it. I know that we were excited, we were working really hard, we were doing everything we could to make the Games great Games for the athletes, and fortunately, there was not much writing about us in Los Angeles. We don't know how the rest of the world looked at us. We were underneath the radar, pretty much.

M. Berlioux: Yes?

Interviewer: Yes, yes. Only one journalist, Ken Reich, wrote much at all about the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. But were people worried about coming to Los Angeles? Did they think that traffic would be a problem? That the air would be terrible? And, that the Games would be terrible?

M. Berlioux: No, I don't think so. I don't think that was a problem.

Interviewer: What were people ...

M. Berlioux: I think the problem was the city was far for all the Europeans who usually get to the Games. So, you had certainly more people from United States and from the rest of the world. And, so long as the people from the rest of the world do not go to the Games, they are less interested in what happens, you see. But they were great Games. I think so, with not much problem except for the drug problem.

Interviewer: Yes. What was the drug problem?

M. Berlioux: The drug problem was that each morning we were working at the executive board and listening to the reports of athletes who had been discovered and who were taking drugs. So, at some juncture, someone thought that there were too many drugged athlete and they decided that the laboratory should be closed. You don't know that part of the story.

Interviewer: Tell us, please.

M. Berlioux: That's all.

Interviewer: That it should be closed? Did it stop? Did they stop making reports?

M. Berlioux: Yeah. Ask Peter Ueberroth.

Interviewer: Yes. Yeah. We had heard that there were eight doping cases that were lost.

M. Berlioux: I think there were more.

Interviewer: Well, that were lost. That never got adjudicated. That there were eight athletes who had positives and that those cases were lost. Prince de Merode said that someone stole his desk or his file cabinet from his room.

M. Berlioux: But it seems to be a current system to ... not to punish people who have made mistakes.

Interviewer: There are many athletes ... I am an athlete who believed that if you cheated, if you used dope, you should never be allowed back into sport. And, of course, there's some who cheat. There's some who cheat because of systematic doping in their country. The East German athletes, when I was competing, and probably the Soviet athletes also had no choice but to do that.

M. Berlioux: So, you could ... The only thing I don't agree with is that you punish the athletes but not the officials, and the officials are far more responsible than the athletes because the athletes very often do not know what they are given to absorb. And, I remember it was prior to Los Angeles, it was at the Winter Games. Let's see. It was probably in '76 when a Czech athlete had been condemned because of taking dope. But his doctor was not punished, and I insisted with Lord Killanin. I said, "But the doctor should be punished because it's so unjust," that finally after a lot of discussion, he agreed that the doctor should be punished. But one year later, he was reinstated by his own committee. So, what can you do?

Interviewer: That was a problem.

M. Berlioux: And, I dislike to see athletes punished but not their doctors, not their officials because very often the president of the club knows what's going on, and the president of the federation also knows.

Interviewer: Did they say there was no basis in the Olympic Charter to do that or why wouldn't ...

M. Berlioux: No.

Interviewer: It's interesting. In 1989, after Seoul with the Ben Johnson situation, I proposed to the IOC that there be a ban primarily on the officials and the doctors because I too thought it was unfair that the athletes, if they take and they're caught, they're caught, but their coaches could go to anybody else, and it was the longest debate they said they'd ever had. Now, I was new. I didn't realize you were supposed to take down what everyone said so that you could respond. No one told me that, and so after ... I think it was maybe 40 minutes people commented on what I had proposed. Then President Samaranch said, "OK, Madame DeFrantz." It's like, "What do mean, Madam DeFrantz?" And, I realized, oh, OK. Well,

what I asked for is not a death, but a life for sport so that athletes know a coach has been with an athlete who was doped before and is likely to ask athletes to dope for the life of sport, not for the death because I think it was Prince de Merode characterized my proposal as a death wish. And, I said, "No ..."

M. Berlioux: As a what?

Interviewer: Death wish ... a death sentence. A death sentence. That's what he called it. And, I said, "No, no, no, it's a life sentence for sport and for athletes." But in the year 2000, we did finally punish a coach ... the coach of the ... and the doctor. The first time the doctor, and he was banned for four years, but it was not until the year 2000 in Sydney when the athlete from Romania in gymnastics suddenly, after being really, really sick, had a remarkable performance the next day and had been given a lot of drugs, unfortunately.

OK, back to the Los Angeles. The Games were very successful. Did you ... Were you worried about the finances of the Games beforehand or did you have any concern about the Games?

M. Berlioux: No.

Interviewer: No?

M. Berlioux: No, because the IOC wasn't responsible for the money spent for the Games, in fact. It was responsible for the good ... not the organization because they were not responsible for the organization, but the development.

Interviewer: It's interesting because now it seems the IOC is more and more involved with the administration of the Games and even takes over the responsibility for the television production, which is ... but none of that was responsibility of the IOC then.

M. Berlioux: No, not before. I don't know if it's a good idea or not, but maybe one day will come when the IOC will decide in which country, in which cities again should be held without candidate cities spending a lot of money. I think this could be possible if the IOC was in touch with all its national Olympic committees and see who would be willing to organize a Games if they were chosen. And, then the IOC could decide and say, "Well, I prefer City A to City C," but to oblige the candidate cities to make so intensive reports about what they are going to do, which they never do exactly as they promise to do because the venues change location, et cetera, et cetera, and

some cities spend a lot of money for these reports, the reports which the IOC member do not read generally.

Interviewer: Some of us do.

M. Berlioux: Because they are too elaborate.

Interviewer: Yes, they are.

M. Berlioux: And, they can't read all that stuff from line first or line finish.

Interviewer: When ... what did you think was important in analyzing a city as to whether they could host the Games or not? What are the elements that are important?

M. Berlioux: It depends who is ... You mean what the IOC sought or me personally?

Interviewer: You personally.

M. Berlioux: To provide good venues for the athletes. I think that would be the first. Good accommodation. Good control of the competitions. Having political status even with no problems. Security as usual. It's unpredictable.

Interviewer: Do you think a country in Africa will be able to host the Olympic Games anytime soon?

M. Berlioux: With the help of other countries, yes. It depends on who the African country because you have the North Africa and the South Africa, which are not developed in my opinion as the center of Africa. So, if Morocco, for example, was ready to stage a Games but they could not do it alone probably. They would need other states and so on in the world. I think that, for example, Montreal recruited foreigners in their organizing committee. And, not only Montreal, but other [inaudible] to help them. And, another country, I don't think is able to organize the Games all by itself. And, it is good because it's a mixture, and this is where the Olympic ideals come in. It's to assemble all cities and all countries.

Interviewer: Do you think that some of the original ideas of bringing together the youth of the world to have peaceful competition, does that still hold for the Olympic movement?

M. Berlioux: No, it's not a primary objective of the IOC or even of the athletes because their primary objective is to win to get money. It's not to win first off.

Interviewer: In some sports, no matter ... There is no matter of money, whether you win or not.

M. Berlioux: Which sports?

Interviewer: Let's think about, say, archery.

M. Berlioux: I think even in archery they get ...

Interviewer: You do?

M. Berlioux: If, for example, if an athlete of my country was winning archery, they would win some money at the same time. Not only the honor, and that was a very [inaudible] when they said, "I dare to have ... to win a medal and that's all."

Interviewer: That's all the IOC gives.

M. Berlioux: Yes, but the others provide.

Interviewer: Yup, their own country provides. Yup, it's true.

M. Berlioux: And, in track and field, Nebiolo was paramount in giving money to the first one and whatever is was the 100, 400, 1,500 meters.

Interviewer: You have said that the athletes commission has too strong a role in the Olympic movement, that athletes compete for money and the center of attention.

M. Berlioux: And, not for a medal.

Interviewer: Could you talk about your feelings about ...

M. Berlioux: Yeah. I think in the Games, now the athletes do not compete for the honor of a simple medal, but to get money and to be granted big ... a lot of money. But this applies also only to a few athletes, but not to the whole athletic world, which should be encouraged to respect their sport. And, I think it's terrible. And, the ideal of the Olympic Games was to volunteer for the Games, not to be paid to run or to swim or to fight. And, that's a bad thing that money is so much involved in the Olympics. We need money to be able to stage Games, and we need money to help people practice sport,

but not to pay them for practicing or winning in sport. That's a big difference, and that should be more observed by now.

Interviewer: The IOC only gives medals. It's the national Olympic committees that seem to want to pay their athletes.

M. Berlioux: Well, it's easy to say, but the IOC gets the money and gives it to the NOCs. Then the NOCs can afford to give money to athletes, so ...

Interviewer: You make the point. I cannot argue.

M. Berlioux: Yes. That's too easy to get out of it.

Interviewer: It's true. But you're right. It's only a very few athletes because you have to be a medalist, and at the Games, it's only a fraction of the athletes.

M. Berlioux: Yes, and there is no concern to what happens to the athletes when they finish their career, what they become because they had ... now they don't even make any studies and they don't work to have a good job after the Games. They become instructors at a low level. It's very sad. And, no hardships.

Interviewer: It is interesting. You can stay in sport longer now because there's a level of support, but it just means that you're staying out of other ...

M. Berlioux: Out of the rest of public life, yeah.

Interviewer: Are you proud to be an Olympian?

M. Berlioux: Oh yes. Yes. At that time, yes, but now I don't know. It's ... it has changed a lot. You cannot compare. When you think, for example, in my sport, swimmers swim 10, 15 kilometers a day. It's madness.

Interviewer: That's interesting. Although they started ... Swimming realizes that you don't have to do that much anymore and there's more land training involved, but it's a lot of training. It's a lot of work. But, do you think the Olympic Games are still relevant to the world?

M. Berlioux: Well, I think it's like football. It attracts spectators a lot, but the spectators do not practice sport. They practice by viewing others.

Interviewer: Yes, watching.

M. Berlioux: Which was not the idea.

Interviewer: Do you have a prediction for the future of the Olympic Games?

M. Berlioux: If it goes on like it is going now, I think they will finish like the Great Games ended.

Interviewer: Which is?

M. Berlioux: Yes, which is not very ... which is a pessimistic view.

Interviewer: Exactly.

M. Berlioux: I agree, but I think it goes beyond what it should be.

Interviewer: It needs to be more simple, more direct to be a part of ...

M. Berlioux: Yes. Yeah.

Interviewer: I think in my sport, I can't imagine believing I would ever make enough money off of being an athlete in rowing, so I always believed that the Olympic Games were the highest level I could attain, and after that, I would either continue to love the sport or go on. And, I think a lot of athletes ... Now, I'm not the most modern athlete. My time was a while back, but I hope that all of us who have had a chance to compete at the Olympic Games appreciate what it took for the Olympic movement to stay alive all these years through the World War I, the World War II, through the Cold War, through all of the things that happened, that there's still that ability to believe in the good that can come from coming together, gathering the youth of the world.

M. Berlioux: There is also one thing which shocks me. It's the price of the tickets to go and see the Games. I think it should be compulsory to give a certain number of seats to people who cannot afford to pay those tickets. But it isn't done because they want more money, more money, more money. And, they don't give; they receive. And, that was the purpose. It was to give something to other people, and the IOC should look how their champions are brought up because they should learn ... the IOC should teach something to the champions: how to lead, how to give to others, how to spend time for others. That's important. Which is not done because now it's concentrated only on sport, not on the ideals of Olympism. I'm sorry to have to say this.

Interviewer: No, no, no. If it's your view, you've seen it come. There used to be a cultural part of the Games too that was important. I don't know. And, there was even a part of the IOC meetings which the whole

time I've been there, it hasn't happened, so things have changed. I hold onto that ideal. I think living in the Olympic Village was the most amazing experience I've had. People of all colors, both sexes, all shapes and everyone able to sit down and share a meal. It's a powerful thing.

M. Berlioux: Yes. But there are many athletes who do not live in the Olympic Village.

Interviewer: More so these days.

M. Berlioux: Yes, and this is wrong. Absolutely wrong because you have the treatment for the best athletes, and in the same team, you have some who are left on the side. That's absolutely wrong.

Interviewer: I guess life is evidenced even in the Olympic Games. Even so. You haven't mentioned your work with the Fairness ... not Fairness. What's it called? The ... that commission that ... Fair Play Commission.

M. Berlioux: Oh, Fair Play. Well, I left Fair Play because they were not fair.

Interviewer: They weren't fair. OK. We don't have to talk about Fair Play, then. They were not fair. That's true. I haven't seen them do much.

Interviewer: Could we go back for just one second? Speaking of money you said that you negotiated the deal with Los Angeles, the television deal so that the IOC could receive a payment. Was that the largest amount of money the IOC had received?

M. Berlioux: Yes. It was by far the largest.

Interviewer: And, how was it used?

M. Berlioux: How was it used? Well, it was used to get the IOC running, and ... but later, it was used also to provide for the IOC members and facilities to come to the Games, to stay at the Games and now instead of staying two or three days, they can afford to stay the two weeks of the Games because the IOC reimbursed their stay.

Interviewer: That is a big change from being an IOC member before 1980 to being an IOC member after 1980.

M. Berlioux: But even so, before 1980, IOC members managed to be reimbursed of their travel expenses by their own NOCs.

Interviewer: I can't imagine the USOC ever reimbursed the IOC members in the U.S. I don't think so.

M. Berlioux: But there are other countries who did.

Interviewer: Because it must have been ... if you were in Europe, it would be one thing, but if you lived outside of Europe, traveling to IOC meetings must have been very, very expensive and time ... consuming.

M. Berlioux: This is why the IOC [members] at the beginning were chosen ... because they could afford to come.

Interviewer: Exactly.

M. Berlioux: And, it was a better idea to have rich people giving their time and money.

Interviewer: It was a public good.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: Earlier we also talked about Lord Killanin wanting to ... having offered IOC membership to Dr. Tenley Albright.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: Yes, and she would have been the first woman ever elected to the IOC.

M. Berlioux: Absolutely, but she refused to be a member because, as you know, she was a surgeon, and she thought surgery came first. And, she would have no time for the IOC, which was odd because when you are a current member, you have one Session a year, two Sessions Olympic years, which is not much.

Interviewer: Nope. And, now the Olympic Winter Games are a different year from the Games, so it's really just one Session a year.

M. Berlioux: I don't know if it's such a good idea. It was meant to get more money from television, but it was ... that was a good idea the unity of the Games, winter and summer the same year. And, I thought that, at some juncture, some countries could have had winter and summer Games at the same time, in the same time as

Interviewer: Interesting.

M. Berlioux: In autumn when the snow comes early.

Interviewer: That would be a very large team to manage.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: And, large Games with lots of expertise. So, that's one idea I have not heard of before. What other ideas did you have for the Olympic Games in the future?

M. Berlioux: Oh, many.

Interviewer: Many, I'm sure. Yes.

M. Berlioux: Sometimes I get a member and now I start thinking of the IOC.

Interviewer: Ah, yes. You did a lot more things with sport after you left the IOC. You worked with the Mayor of Paris for some time. Could you tell us ...

M. Berlioux: I was not one day without work when I left the IOC because Chirac ... Jacques Chirac was then mayor of Paris, and he was in Berlin to present Paris' candidature. And, when I resigned from the IOC, I went to see him and ask him if he was prepared to take me to help with the candidature, which he said yes immediately. So, I worked with the candidature, but unfortunately, my French compatriots did not trust me when I advised them to do such or such a thing. And, the big problem with French people is that they are never satisfied with anything. They always complain, and it gives a bad image. And, also a problem is that they don't trust each other and that is too bad. They have no notion ... They are too much individuals.

Interviewer: But you had both a winter candidate and a summer candidate.

M. Berlioux: Yes. That was a shame, but Barnier had proposed to hold the Games as early as Sarajevo Games.

Interviewer: Oh wow. That was early. That was January.

M. Berlioux: It was strange because I met him in the press room. I met a tall, young, very handsome man in a T-shirt or pullover and with a sheet of paper. I introduced myself. I said, "What can I do for you?" And, he said, "Oh, I would like to host the Games in my city of Albertville." He was a mayor at the time of Albertville. And, on that sheet of paper, he wanted to write what he could do to get the

Games. And, I nearly succeeded [in bringing both the winter and summer Games to France]. But to be frank, it was usual ... it was the normal procedure for the IOC to vote for the Winter Games after the Olympic Games were held ... were selected. But Samaranch changed the vote, and the Winter Games were voted for before the Summer Games. So, he made sure that Albertville would win. Therefore, it eliminated Paris beforehand.

Interviewer: And, the winner was?

M. Berlioux: Barcelona.

Interviewer: This was 1986 when I was elected and there was much talk about how that had happened, that it had been the reverse of what should have been elected.

M. Berlioux: And, Chirac made a very, very good speech, presentation to the candidacy, and Lord Killanin called me that evening and said, "Oh, I suppose you will win. Paris will win because the presentation was so good and all the members were very satisfied." And, this is that same evening that Samaranch decided to change the vote.

Interviewer: So, the presentations were one day and the votes the next day.

M. Berlioux: Yeah.

Interviewer: No one can say he wasn't clever.

M. Berlioux: And, I remember I had decided for the program, you know, there was an oral presentation and a film. And, I had seen usually when the film was [presented], which lasted at least 15 or 20 minutes, all members going out of the room to do something else because one could not see if you were leaving. So, I said to Chirac, "The only problem to see the film is to cut it in pieces of four minutes long, interspersed with your speech. Because the members will stay in the room. They cannot get out."

Interviewer: That's right.

M. Berlioux: So, that was successful.

Interviewer: Very clever you are.

M. Berlioux: No, no, but you learn when you work and when you like something. You try to do it the best.

Interviewer: So, your love of sport continued. You did your best for advising on the Olympic Games, and then you continued to work with the mayor.

M. Berlioux: Yes, and what did I do? Yes, I organized the Federation of the International French Athlete, and I resigned from this some years ago because I thought that there could be a link between all the athletes who had represented France in one sport or the other because I discovered that the Olympic Games, you have a team which parades all together, but after, they never see each other because each is in athletics, in fencing, in swimming, equestrian, they are separate and never meet. So, I thought afterwards they should continue to meet and they should also ...

Interviewer: So, you were working with athletes because you noticed that they met at the Games maybe but never afterwards.

M. Berlioux: Yes, never after. Never during the Games even, and never afterwards. And, I thought it could be an example for the youngsters and they should help the youngsters, which is extremely difficult to ask to French people, I think. But it worked and we gave a little money to youngsters who could not afford, for example, to buy fencing equipment or other things.

Interviewer: That's a good idea.

M. Berlioux: And, this is what I think the IOC should do is to help those who cannot afford.

Interviewer: Maybe that's a better use of Solidarity money.

M. Berlioux: Yes. Then I was a member and vice president of the Academy of Sport in France, and what we did was giving supplies for education to youngsters at the end of your studies who could ... who had good notes in sport and in their studies at the same time. So, we delivered them some money to be able to travel abroad and make a report at the end. But now I don't think the report is ever given.

Interviewer: That's too bad.

M. Berlioux: Yeah, too bad. Well, I think maybe I did other things, but I don't remember. Oh, I wrote my memoirs as soon as I left the IOC, but Samaranch somehow made it sure that I ... They could not be published because probably was afraid of what I would say, but if he had let me do it, I would never have said what I have said afterwards. That was a bad judgment.

Interviewer: I see. So, the agreement prevented you from publishing this memoir.

M. Berlioux: Yeah. He wrote to publishers stating that he would sue them if they published a line. I had one letter of them. That's how I know.

Interviewer: All in all, are you happy with your experience with the Olympic movement?

M. Berlioux: Oh, very happy. I had a very good time, and I loved what I was doing. Yes. It was difficult to leave also. But life had become so difficult ... the everyday life had become so difficult it was impossible to continue, and I was accused. That's how it came, my departure. I was accused by Walter Tröger, who is a member of the IOC, to have forbidden Peter Ueberroth to give an Olympic torch to him.

Interviewer: No.

M. Berlioux: Yes. And, he complained at the session of the executive board. And, when I heard that, I was amazed, and I said, "By no means." And, I said, "If you trust him, I better leave." And, Samaranch jumped on it and said, "Sure, OK."

Interviewer: So, he was listening.

M. Berlioux: Yeah. And, they had concocted that before to have someone to accuse me of such a silly thing. So, that's how it came.

Interviewer: Well, I was shocked and sad to know that you had left, and when I came to become a member of the IOC, I was sad to see that kind of erased.

M. Berlioux: Oh yes, absolutely. You know, I had published for the IOC a book, and there was a photograph of when the former president handed the keys to the president-elect, and on the photo, there was Samaranch, Killanin, I don't remember, and I was also in the photograph. And, when the book was republished after I left, Samaranch had the photograph cut so I could not appear on the photo. I think it's so mean.

Interviewer: Well, in fact, I knew about that photograph, and that's what made me say, "I have to make sure that we have her in the picture of the Olympic movement," because you are so important a part, as an athlete representing your own country, someone who was ahead of

your time as an administrator, as a journalist as someone who wrote a book about the Olympic movement, who wanted to have it made into a movie. You were always ahead of your time in your thought. At least ahead of the thinking of the men of your time, perhaps is the best way to put it. And, you've given a great deal to the Olympic movement, and I want to make sure that no one could ever claim that that has been erased.

M. Berlioux: Thank you very much.

Interviewer: Well, thank you very much. You're a great woman.

M. Berlioux: Thank you.

Interviewer: Is there anything else you'd like to [say about the Los Angeles Games]? Or have you said enough, do you think?

M. Berlioux: I don't know. I should thank the then mayor of Los Angeles who was ...

Interviewer: Tom Bradley.

M. Berlioux: A very good man.

Interviewer: Yes. Tom Bradley was our greatest mayor.

M. Berlioux: Very good, very simple and very efficient also.

Interviewer: Yes. He was behind the scenes.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: He wasn't a member of the committee, but he made sure that it was supported. He was a great mayor of the City of Los Angeles.

M. Berlioux: And, I suppose Brundage would have been happy to see the Games in Los Angeles, even though there was already much money involved, which he did not like. But I wrote as the final thing that, in my time, the IOC had three types of Presidents. One was a rich man, one was a titled man because he was a noble, and one was a merchant.

Interviewer: That's true. And, so far, we've survived them all.

M. Berlioux: Yes.

Interviewer: Well, thank you very much for spending time with me and spending time with all of those who will be able to see you and get to know you a little tiny bit.

M. Berlioux: And, thank you very much for asking me to speak about last years ... past years.

Interviewer: A great life in sport. Thank you.