

The International Bobsleigh and Tobogganing Federation sent a protest to the Organizers at Squaw Valley.

We publish hereby their reply :

San Francisco, October 24, 1957.

*Monsieur le Comte de la Frégeolière
Président
Fédération Internationale de Bobsleigh
et de Tobogganing
102, Avenue Kléber
Paris 16, France*

Dear Count de la Frégeolière,

In reference to your letter of October 12 may I respectfully state the record will show that our Organizing Committee has at all times acted in good faith in the matter of the inclusion of Bobsled competition at the VIIIth Olympic Winter Games to be held at Squaw Valley, California in 1960.

At the time we wrote to the National Olympic Committee in connection with their plans to participate in the Bobsled competition, we were proceeding with budgeted programme looking toward the construction of the Bobrun and its supporting installations. We had already spent approximately \$50,000 during the preceding year to obtain topographical surveys and architectural and engineering plans, drawings and specifications for the Bobrun.

As you know, the plans were based on the designs of Mr. Louis Saint-Calbre who came to Squaw Valley twice at the invitation of the Organizing Committee to provide technical assistance for the planned installation.

Your letter states that Mr. Saint-Calbre estimated the work would cost \$300,000 maximum whereas this Committee had informed the International Olympic Committee the cost would be \$700,000. It is a fact that Mr. Saint-Calbre had submitted the \$300,000 estimate, but it is also a fact that this estimate did not include important additional costs such as purchase of bobsleds for test purposes, construction of an aerial tramway to return the sleds to the starting area, spectators' seating and viewing areas, service buildings, garage buildings, warming huts, lighting installations, timing facilities, communications circuits, buried water lines, mechanized snow removal equipment for keeping the course clear of Squaw Valley's deep snow, and other substantial items which brought the total cost to more than \$700,000.

It was with great concern that we learned, on the basis of responses received from nations which previously had participated in Bobsled competition, that so few of them intended to compete in the event at the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley. We were, of course, aware that the survey in itself did not

constitute a conclusive finding. However, since our construction plans had to be formalized and contracts awarded by October 7, 1957, to complete the Bob and properly test it prior to the Games, we found ourselves in a quandry and decided to place the problem before the International Olympic Committee at the Sofia meeting. Mr. Saint-Calbre will confirm to you that it was his view that two years' testing for at least a portion of the course was essential for this new Bobrun. To provide this testing opportunity, an immediate construction decision was imperative.

We believe you will appreciate that for this Committee to have proceeded with a \$700,000 expenditure for a Bobsledrun and necessary supporting facilities when so few nations had affirmatively indicated any intention to compete in the event, would have subjected the Organizing Committee and the entire Olympic movement to severe criticism. The case would have been different, of course, if there had been a Bobsled installation already constructed in Squaw Valley.

The International Olympic Committee decided to accept the Committee's recommendation that the Bobsled event be eliminated from the Winter Games' competitive schedule on the basis that at least twelve nations would have to compete in the Bob event in order to justify its retention in the 1960 Games, and that number, or even close to that number, could not be guaranteed at this time.

Your letter states that you have requested Mr. Otto Mayer, Chancellor of the International Olympic Committee, to provide you with a photocopy of the Sofia decisions concerning the Bobsled, and we assume that you now have possession of that material.

The Organizing Committee was ready, willing, and able to proceed with construction of the Bob if the International Olympic Committee had so decreed, and the money for the project was included in our budget. We regret that you consider the Bob decision a blow to Olympic unity, but the time element, and the other factors related above, left us no alternative 'but to submit the entire problem to the International Olympic Committee for an immediate decision.

Believe me, I personally regret the circumstances that have brought about this situation, and I thank you again for your many kindnesses.

Please accept the expression of my best wishes.

ALAN E. BARTHOLEMAY
Executive Director and General Secretary