

The world needs our fine athletes to be represented internationally and we therefore must have an exemption to this proposed tax.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM J. KNECHT.

POSITION ON PROPOSED TAX

Dr. SCHWARTZ. As an athlete, I do not feel that I can legitimately speak to the economic questions concerning the proposed taxes. Instead, it is my position that if the taxes are passed, they will impose a financial hardship on American athletes engaged in international competition. Therefore, I will urge that an exemption be made for such athletes and the groups sponsoring them.

ROLE OF GROUPS SPONSORING ATHLETES

It is the custom in this country that amateur athletes either support themselves or gain support from groups organized for this purpose. These groups range in size from the U.S. Olympic Committee to small athletic clubs sponsoring only a few athletes.

The funds of these organizations are obtained through voluntary contributions or dues. Many of these groups are tax-exempt with their sole aim being to foster improvement in athletics. One of the best ways of achieving this end is by giving international experience to our best athletes and those who show promise of becoming our best athletes. The situation in American rowing today is illustrative of this.

BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP

Prior to the organization of the National Rowing Foundation in 1966, the United States had never, except for the Olympics and Pan American games, fielded a full rowing team for international championships. Efforts to send oarsmen to these events were fitful and disorganized, and the performance reflected this.

Beginning in 1966, the National Rowing Foundation sought to put rowing on a par with other sports in this country with respect to international competition. The simple expedient used was the incentive provided by an organized effort to fund a first-class team of international competitors. The results are truly noteworthy.

In 1966, the first full United States team ranked fourth in the world championship in Bled, Yugoslavia. This past year at the 1967 championships in Vichy, France, the United States tied with Russia for second place behind the East Germans. And this was only the second year of this organized effort.

COST OF SPONSORING ATHLETIC TEAMS

An effort such as this is not without its cost. The 1967 expenditures for travel, food, lodging, et cetera, which would have been subject to the proposed tax totaled \$21,775, or about \$588 for each member of the 37-man team.

The proposed tax on the amounts just mentioned would total \$1,800, more than enough to support three athletes.

For an organization working with the fixed income from an endowment or depending solely on voluntary contributions, the situation