

University of Louisville; Dr. Frank Kingdon, president, Dana College
 Mayor F. H. La Guardia; the Rev. Dr. Chas. S. Macfarland, secretary
 emeritus, Federal Council of Churches; Theodore Marburg of Balti-
 more; Dr. Daniel L. Marsch, president Boston University; the Rev.
 Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Professor of Christian Ethics, Union Theolog-
 ical Seminary; Rev. Dr. Albert W. Palmer, president, Chicago Theo. Seminary;
 Amos Pinchot; E. Merrill Root of Earlham College;
 John A. Ryder, track coach at Boston College; William J. Schieffelin
 chairman, Citizens Union; Dr. Charles G. Selecman, president,
 Southern Methodist University; Jack Shea, former Olympic champion;
 George Shuster, managing editor, The Commonweal; the Rev. E. F.
 Stanford, president, Villanova College; Dr. Ernest Fremont Tittle;
 Dr. Luther A. Weigle, dean, Yale University School Divinity; Dr.
 Ernest H. Wilkins, president, Oberlin College; and Dr. Mary E.
 Woolley.

These men and women acted as individuals in expressing their
 view of American participation in the Olympics if held in Berlin.
 Beyond that I must point to a statement recently issued by Dr. Sam-
 uel McCrea Cavert, General Secretary of the Federal Council of the
 Churches of Christ in America. I quote him: "The question of the
 Olympic Games is not one for which the churches have any direct re-
 sponsibility. The decision as to whether American teams shall
 participate must be made by the responsible leaders of athletics
 and sports. Nevertheless the conditions which have given rise to
 the current debate over the Olympics are something in which Chris-
 tian leaders have a vital concern. Underlying the present discus-
 sion is the inescapable issue whether Christian public sentiment can
 tolerate anything as cruel and unChristian as the anti-Semitic pol-
 icy of Germany's present rulers. That there is a deliberate anti-
 Semitism in Germany today, not merely in occasional and sporadic way
 but as an official policy, there can be no doubt. That the treat-
 ment of the Jews is becoming worse instead of better and that what
 is now taking place is a ruthless ostracism of great numbers of peo-
 ple on the ground of race alone is attested by scores of Church
 leaders who are in first-hand contact with the situation.

"When this situation was reviewed by the Executive Com-
 mittee of the Federal Council of Churches there was no question as
 to the essential facts or as to the moral issue presented by them.
 While not desiring to intrude into a decision which the Olympic
 Committee must itself make, the governing body of the Federal Coun-

cil did not hesitate to express its mind with regard to the basic ethical issue which is involved."

Now let me read you part of the statement which the Federal Council adopted officially and caused to be published.

"The issue is whether a government which deliberately excludes from full social and economic fellowship the members of one race on the grounds of race alone is acting consistently with Christian principles. On this issue our judgment is clear and unequivocal that such a policy is inconsistent with Christian principles and we are glad to know that in this judgment we are supported by responsible sections of Christian opinion in Germany. Having on many occasions expressed our judgment on issues of social justice which have arisen in our own country, we feel the more free to express our conviction on the present situation in Germany."

Lest it be thought that the Council is subconsciously or unconsciously biased against Germany, may I remind you that a few years ago, before Hitler came to power, the Federal Council denounced as unfair and untrue the condemnation of Germany as solely responsible for the world war, and informed its Christian brethren in Germany of that fact. It was my personal privilege to carry that message to Berlin and I know with what gratitude it was received. The same love of justice which led the Council then to express itself for Germany and against a world propaganda of misrepresentation and discrimination, now leads it to express the judgment against Nazi racialism which I have just read to you.

I am speaking as an American and from an American standpoint with regard to the question of American attitudes toward what is going on in Germany and the bearing of those attitudes upon American participation in the Olympic Games in Berlin. But I think it is quite within the province of an American Christian who deals with this theme to point out the fact that even the Universal Christian Council, the Non-Roman world federation of Churches, has clearly and forcefully condemned the Nazi policies of racial discrimination which are at the very heart of the system of government now dominant in Germany. The Universal Christian Council notified German Church leaders of its view in these words: "Grave anxieties have been expressed by the representatives of different Churches in Europe and America in particular with regard to the severe action taken (by the National Socialist Government) against persons of Jewish origin,

and the serious restrictions placed upon freedom of thought and expression in Germany." Even the Archbishop of Canterbury has felt called upon to express the grave concern of the English Church over this racialism in Germany. We will search far in the annals of the past for similar instances of considered international protest from the most representative Christian bodies in the world - denominational and interdenominational. They bear witness to the seriousness of what is taking place in Germany; and from a consideration of these protests and the situation which has called them forth it ought to be easy to see that more than ordinary care needs to be taken in selecting means of bringing the moral condemnation of the world to bear upon Nazi policies.

Fair play (The man who calls this mixing religion and politics with sport is entitled to his opinion. But if he would do a little careful thinking and face up to all the facts he would see in what is happening that great religious bodies are rising to defend the principles upon which alone it will ever be possible to establish the tradition of fair play and mutual respect indispensable to true sportsmanship.

That is the explanation of why many who are first of all Churchmen, as I am myself, have concerned themselves with the proposed Olympic racket which the National Socialist government is playing. That is what animates us to declare that in our deliberate opinion American athletes ought to refuse to participate where sportsmanship is a myth, honor a purely nationalistic fetish, justice a travesty and self-righteous pugnacity the supreme virtue.

Will the American teams be deluded by fair promises and the dissembling of obvious facts by those who are more interested in a single Olympic competition than in the vital welfare of the human race on all the playing fields of the unknown future? That will be for them to say. It is a hard decision. I do not wonder that they hesitate, although many have already announced their personal determination to stay away from the Berlin games. It has been said that they should not be asked to be martyrs to religion and political prejudice. No one is asking them to be martyrs - least of all to be martyrs for religious and personal prejudice. They are asked to embrace their opportunity to register a dramatic vote for those qualities in life and sport which Americanism, not to mention the Christian religion and the traditions of civilized culture, regards as paramount. If they so vote it will not be a meaningless plebiscite where no real alternatives are offered but an exercise of man's highest privilege - his franchise in the moral universe where he can cast his vote for eternal principles of right and justice or for compromises, dictated by expediency and the natural desires for temporary enjoyment of a questionable privilege bought at the expense of the inalienable rights of certain of his fellow men.