

## CHAPTER SIX

### WEIGHTLIFTING I

#### INTRODUCTION

6.1 Weightlifting is a competitive Olympic sport governed by the rules of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). The IWF was founded in 1920 at the suggestion of the International Olympic Committee in order to control the sport and to formulate the technical rules so that Olympic competitions could be held under internationally agreed conditions.

6.2 Weightlifting consists of lifting a variably weighted rod about 2 metres in length to each end of which removable weights are attached. The winner lifts the highest total weight on two styles of lift - the snatch, and the clean and jerk. At the Commonwealth Games in Auckland in January 1990, medals were awarded for each lift as well as the overall total. And up to 1972 a third lift, the press, was also included.

6.3 In the snatch the rod is pulled from the floor to the locked arms overhead in a single motion, with the lifter permitted to lunge or squat under the weight as it travels upward. The clean and jerk is a two movement lift in which, after lifting the rod to the shoulders, the lifter jerks it overhead to arms' length, and leg action is not restricted. In both lifts the lifter must finish with feet in line, body erect, arms and legs extended, and the weight under control overhead. The lifter then waits for the referee's signal to lower the weight back to the floor.

6.4 Competitions are conducted in various weight divisions. Within any one division the weight (at weigh-in) of a competitor can be important because, in the event of a tie, the lighter competitor wins.

6.5 Weightlifting in Australia appears to be a popular sport, claiming 24,861 registered participants in 1987-88. In that year it received a grant of \$110,000 from the Commonwealth Government under the Sports Development Program. (Commonwealth Assistance to Australian Sport 1987-88, Appendix 1) While women compete in weightlifting, they do not do so in the Olympic or Commonwealth Games.

## **INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING AND SPORTS DRUG ABUSE**

### World-Wide Problems

6.6 That weightlifting is a high risk sport for drug abuse has been demonstrated consistently in recent years.

6.7 Eight out of the ten positive drug tests at the Seoul Olympic Games were in the sport of weightlifting. At Auckland in January 1990, three weightlifters returned positive samples at the Commonwealth Games. They were the Indian Subratakumar Paul, and two lifters from Wales, Ricky Chaplin and Gareth Hives. Mr Paul had won two silver and a bronze in the 67.5 kg category, Mr Chaplin a gold in the 75 kg snatch, and Mr Hives won silver medals in the 100 kg category.

6.8 While a number of weightlifters in recent years have tested positive for banned drugs, others have been detained for seeking to take anabolic steroids through Customs or gaoled for selling steroids on the black market. A summary of these sports drug incidents follows.

### **Canada**

6.9 In 1983, two Canadian weightlifters tested positive at the Pan American Games in Caracas, Venezuela. In the same year, four Canadian weightlifters (including Brisbane 1982 Commonwealth Games Bronze medallist Jacques Demers shown in Figure 6.1) were stopped at Customs in Montreal and charged with attempting to

smuggle 22,000 anabolic steroid pills and small amounts of injectables into Canada.

6.10 In 1984, two Canadian weightlifters tested positive in the Canadian Weightlifting Federation's pre-departure testing program before the Los Angeles Olympic Games. In 1985, five Canadian weightlifters had positive tests, one of whom had previously been caught in 1983 in Venezuela. In 1986, one Canadian weightlifter tested positive. Two others had positive results in a training camp before the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games but successfully appealed. In 1988, four Canadian weightlifters Jacques Demers, David Bolduc, Paramjit Gill and Kevin Roy, tested positive in a pre-departure testing program before the Seoul Olympic Games. All these tests were for anabolic steroids. (Letter from Robin Nunn, Director of Research, Dublin Inquiry, Canada, The Sydney Morning Herald, 28 September 1988; The Australian, 21 December 1989)

#### The United Kingdom

6.11 British weightlifters had been warned in the British Weightlifting Coaching report of 23 March 1985 under the heading 'Anti-Drugs':

In view of the apparent intensive searching of weightlifters' baggage at airports more attention must be paid to what is being carried. (The Times, 21 November 1989)

6.12 The powerlifter Tom Hawk trained at the Thames Valley College Gymnasium, run by the 1982 Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist, British weightlifter, Steve Pinsent (See Figure 6.1). In July 1989, Mr Hawk died from a heart attack during a televised strongman competition. Tom Hawk had gained 25 kilograms in the 12 months before his death. Police found testosterone and anabolic steroids in his hotel room. (The Times, 20 November 1989) Importantly the Committee notes that the British Amateur Weightlifting Association (BAWLA) administers both weightlifting and powerlifting in the UK.

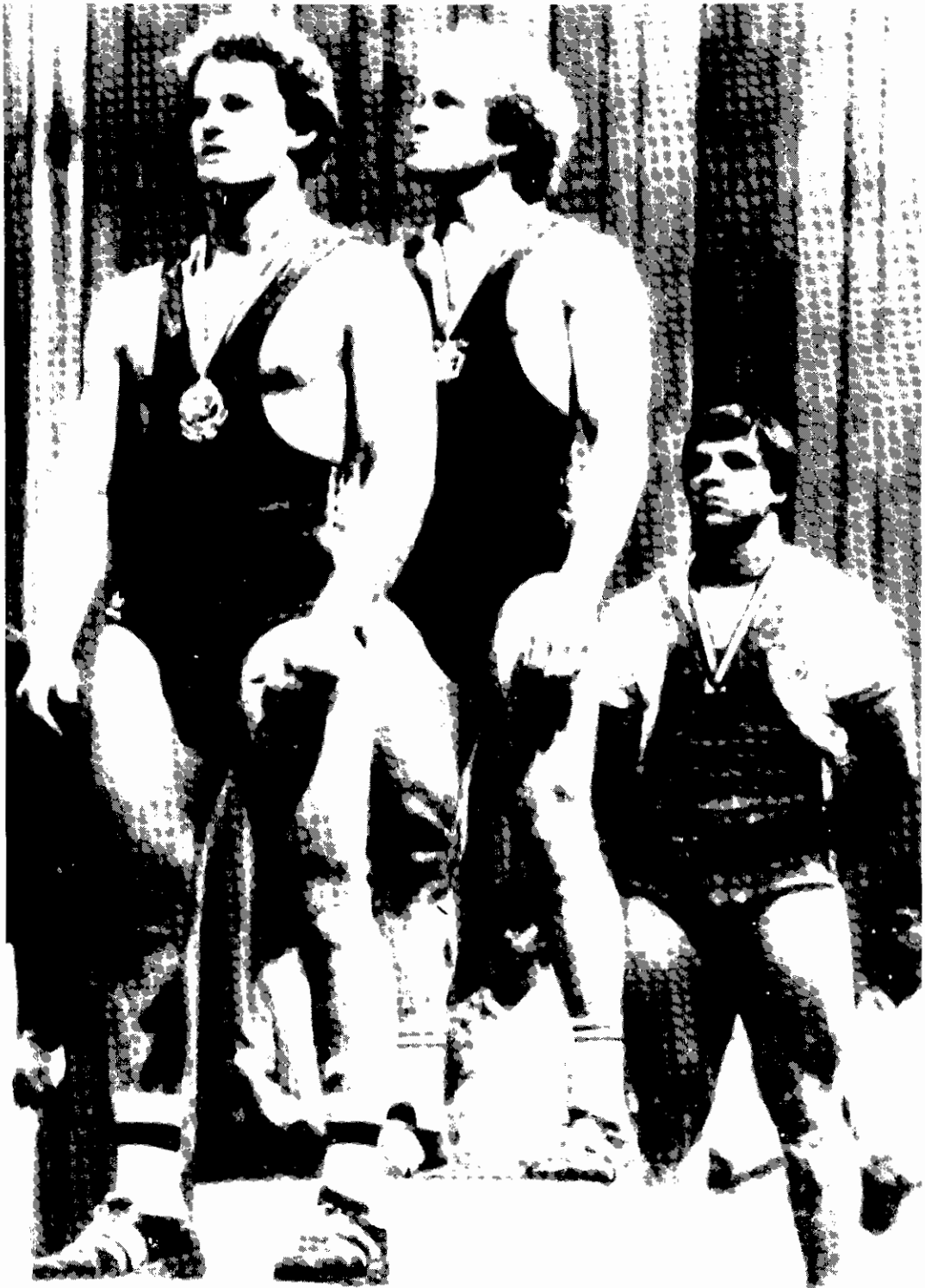
6.13 In October 1989, British weightlifter Dean Willey, who won Gold Medals at the Brisbane Commonwealth Games in 1982 and in Edinburgh in 1986, was suspended for life after a positive drug test. His urine sample contained more than six times the normal levels of testosterone. An appeal was turned down in January 1990, preventing Mr Willey from competing at the 1990 Auckland Commonwealth Games. (The Canberra Times, 8 January 1990; The Sun, 8 January 1990)

6.14 In November 1989, British weightlifter Steve Pinsent (see para. 6.12 above) was jailed for three months for supplying steroids to 'persons unknown' between 1986 and 1988. In addition to winning the weightlifting Gold Medal for his division in the Commonwealth Games in 1982, Mr Pinsent won a Bronze medal at the 1978 Commonwealth Games and competed in the Moscow and Los Angeles Olympics. In his defence, Steve Pinsent said he had only ever passed on drugs to two close friends, both weightlifters. The Crown offered no evidence on a second charge of supplying a medical product without a licence. The Judge commented that the use of drugs in sport 'is an evil which is prevalent and growing'. He went on to say 'Those that supply must know that their crime is punishable by imprisonment'. (The Times, 18 November 1989) Figure 6.1 shows the 1982 Commonwealth Games weightlifting medallists Steve Pinsent (centre) and Jacques Demers (right); the Australian Tony Pignone is at the left.

6.15 In the Auckland Games in January/February 1990, Welsh weightlifter Ricky Chaplin recorded excessive testosterone levels and failed his drug test after winning the Gold Medal for the 75 kg Snatch. At the same event some days later, another Welsh weightlifter Gareth Hives, won three silver medals for the Snatch, Clean and Jerk and Total in the 100 kg division. He also failed his drug test when the Sydney AGAL drug testing unit found abnormally high levels of the fast-clearing anabolic steroid stanozolol, the same drug detected in the urine of Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson at the Seoul Olympics in 1988. (The Courier Mail, 2 February 1990) AGAL's Principal Chemist, Dr Kazlauskas, advised the Committee:

FIGURE 6.1

(Photograph Courtesy Australian Associated Press)



The level of the metabolites of stanozolol in one of the Welsh weightlifters was very high ... This indicates either a heavy usage of oral formulations right up to the Games or heavy multiple doses of the injectable crystalline suspension stopped some time before the Games. (Letter to Committee Secretary, 6 March 1990; see Appendix 10)

6.16 After the Commonwealth Games positive tests on the two UK (Welsh) weightlifters, the Welsh team manager Myrddin John disclosed that he had taken part in a 'scientific experiment' which involved him taking anabolic steroids in 1973, the year in which he was named in a court case involving the sale of anabolic steroids. He was reported to have stated: 'I was named, but it was not true'. (The Courier Mail, 2 February 1990)

#### **Bulgaria**

6.17 The Bulgarian Bantamweight Gold Medallist at the 1988 Seoul Olympics Mitko Grablev was stripped of his Gold Medal after failing his drug test which detected the diuretic furosemide. Later in the same event, Bulgarian lightweight Angel Guenchev broke four world records and won the Gold Medal. He was also disqualified after his drug test found the same diuretic in his urine.

6.18 The Bulgarian team then left Seoul and returned home. A third Bulgarian positive at the Seoul Olympics, under the IWF's stated policy, would have meant a 12-month suspension for Bulgaria from the IWF, and further positives could have lengthened this suspension. Bulgaria had won four of the five Gold Medals at the Games plus a Silver Medal and a Bronze Medal before the disqualifications and had hoped to boost this result in the remaining five divisions. A subsequent editorial carried in the Communist Party daily newspaper suggested the withdrawal was an admission of official connivance and had cast a shadow on the name of Bulgarian sport. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 28 September 1988)

6.19 In March 1989, the IWF reported that another Bulgarian weightlifter had been tested positive for anabolic steroids in a random drug test conducted by the IWF. (The Canberra Times, 31 March 1989)

### Hungary

6.20 The Hungarian 75 kg weightlifter Kalman Csengeri had been placed fourth in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, before his disqualification for failing a drug test. His urine sample contained the anabolic steroid stanozolol.

6.21 In August 1989, the Head of the Hungarian Olympic Committee Pal Schmitt, was reported as follows:

I've had it with athletes using performance enhancing drugs. We had a case not long ago where three Hungarian weightlifters failed the test. I gave them yellow cards as a warning. Just the way a Soccer referee would. The next card will be a red one, which means expulsion. Not only on the soccer field, but also from participating in the Olympic Games for the whole Hungarian weightlifting sport. (The Toronto Sun, 30 August 1989)

### Spain

6.22 Fernando Mariaca, thirteenth in the 67.5 kg division at the Seoul Olympics, was disqualified after his urine test showed he had taken pemoline, a banned amphetamine stimulant. The Spanish medical team was held partly responsible for lax supervision in his case. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 28 September 1989)

### India

6.23 Subratakumar Paul won two Silver Medals and a Bronze Medal in the 67.5 kg division at the Auckland Commonwealth Games before failing a drug test which showed the presence in his urine of a long-acting anabolic steroid. AGAL has confirmed that the level of nandrolone found in the Indian lifter could indicate a

heavy program that was followed up to a month or so before the Games. (Letter to Committee Secretary, 6 March 1990) Shortly before this positive test the Indian weightlifting team manager had attributed his country's high performance at the Auckland Games to 'hard work and not drugs'. (The Sun, 6 February 1990)

## The USSR

6.24 On 6 December 1984, two Soviet weightlifters were arrested for smuggling anabolic steroids into Canada. They were the world super-heavyweight champion Anatoly Pisarenko and fellow Soviet lifter Alexander Kurlovich. Mr Robin Nunn, Director of Research for the Dubin Inquiry in Canada, has advised that these lifters were carrying Dianabol (methandrostenolone). (Letter to Committee Secretary, 8 March 1989) ASDA has provided the following press cutting on the incident:

MOSCOW, Sunday: World super-heavyweight champion Anatoly Pisarenko and fellow Soviet weight-lifter Alexander Kurlovich have been banned for life after being fined in Canada for possessing unauthorised anabolic steroids worth more than \$10,000.

The pair have been thrown out of the Soviet team for "acts dishonouring other Soviet sportsmen", according to the Sovietski sports newspaper.

The banning order came from the Soviet Sports Ministry.

National team coach Alexander Prilepin and two lifters' club coaches have also been disciplined.

Pisarenko, the clean-and-jerk world record-holder at his weight, and Kurlovich, a former snatch and total world record-holder in the super-heavyweight (over 110kg) category, were stopped by Montreal Customs officials on December 6. They were fined \$300 and \$500 respectively in court the next day.

The two lifters were accused of having the drugs to sell.



6.25 In 1988, the IWF 'flying squad' of drug testers tested the Soviet national team and found two positives. (Evidence, p. 801)

#### Discussion

6.26 Excluding Australia, seven countries have been identified in recent years as returning positive tests among their weightlifters for banned sporting drugs: anabolic steroids, testosterone, diuretics and stimulants. Three countries, Canada, Britain and the USSR have had weightlifters detained for attempting to smuggle anabolic steroids through Customs or for involvement in their domestic black market in sporting drugs.

6.27 Further, the head of Hungary's Olympic Committee has threatened to withdraw the membership of that country's weightlifting federation from the Hungarian Olympic Committee. The Commonwealth Games Federation secretary David Dixon was reported to have commented after the three weightlifting positives at the Auckland Games that a proposal to withdraw weightlifting from the 1994 Commonwealth Games at Victoria, Canada, would be 'considered'. (The Sun, 1 February 1990)

6.28 Possibly the most disturbing aspect of the positive drug tests at Auckland was the fact that the two Welsh lifters both tested positive for drugs with rapid clearance times: testosterone and stanozolol. The clearance time for testosterone is demonstrated by the case of Mrs Gael Martin. Mrs Martin told the Committee she had been injected with testosterone exactly 14 days before she passed a drug test after winning a Bronze Medal at the Los Angeles Olympic Games. (Interim Report, p. 345) Further, the IWF secretary Dr Tamas Ajan has stated:

Today an athlete can stop using drugs as late as ten days before the event, and still he would be tested negative after his performance. (Morning Bulletin, September 1989)

In particular, stanozolol could take from a few hours to two weeks to be flushed from the body. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 28 September 1988) And the testosterone Andriol is 'completely untraceable' after three days. (The Australian, 14 December 1987)

6.29 The Commonwealth Games weightlifting teams arrived in Auckland on 20 January 1990. While the drug taken by the Indian weightlifter at Auckland was slow-acting and may have been taken well in advance of his arrival in New Zealand, the drugs used by the two Welsh lifters could have been ingested in that country. In particular, reports of the stanozolol readings for Gareth Hives were so high and the clearance time for the oral variety of the drug so short that, if taken in tablet form, it could have been used after arrival at the Commonwealth Games village. (Based on AGAL letter to Committee Secretary, 6 March 1990; see Appendix 10)

6.30 Therefore, prohibited stanozolol tablets may have been smuggled through Customs by the Welsh weightlifters themselves (unlikely in view of the warning to British lifters already referred to). Alternatively, those drugs could have been obtained in New Zealand on the domestic black market, or through compliant doctors and pharmacists.

6.31 One implication of this is that any country hosting a future international sports event involving weightlifting may find itself in the unenviable position of prosecuting visiting weightlifters for buying drugs on the domestic black market, or for seeking to smuggle the drugs through Customs, or both.

6.32 This is clearly a matter of concern to Canada for the 1994 Commonwealth Games and ought to be of similar concern to Australia if it succeeds in its bid to host the 1996 Olympic Games. This concern is completely independent of any action Australian sporting authorities may take concerning the future of the Australian Weightlifting Federation (AWF), and is contingent solely on weightlifting remaining an Olympic and Commonwealth Games sport.

### International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Initiatives

6.33 The submission made to the Committee by the Australian Weightlifting Federation recognised that the sport is in the high risk category for drug taking. It also pointed to the many initiatives taken by the IWF to control doping in weightlifting.

- . In 1985 the IWF became the first sports federation to introduce random doping control in the period prior to a major weightlifting event.
- . In 1986 the IWF Executive Board decided that the IWF would control testing of all world championships and at all major international events and that records could not be verified unless drug testing had taken place;
  - the rate of doping control in all senior and junior championships has been at a level of 35 to 50 per cent of all competitors, a rate far greater than that of any other sports federation at world championship level.
- . In 1986 it was agreed that the IWF would suspend for three years any weightlifter found positive on first offence. (Evidence, p. 3335)
- . In September 1987 the IWF became the first sporting federation to ban probenecid, a blocking agent. (Evidence, p. 3365)
- . The IWF has now recommended the introduction of steroid profiling. (Evidence, p. 3365)

6.34 In 1986 the IWF tested 1,864 weightlifters, many of these tests being performed in the preparation period prior to a competition. Only 0.9 per cent of these tests proved positive, compared with the 1.7 per cent positive results obtained by International Olympic Committee testing over the same period. (Evidence, pp. 3335-6) While the IWF tests produced a low rate of positives, the Committee is very aware that the level of positive

tests does not always give an accurate picture of the level of drug abuse. This was demonstrated by many instances described in the Interim Report.

6.35 The more recent intentions of the International Weightlifting Federation were made clear after Bulgarian lifters tested positive for diuretics at the Seoul Olympics. The Federation then announced that it would introduce from 1 January 1989 a roving commission which would visit without notice gyms of the 131 member countries to test lifters for banned substances like anabolic steroids. The Secretary-General of the Federation, Mr Tamas Ajan, was reported to have said that any national committee which refused to accept the commission would be suspended. (The Canberra Times, 3 December 1989) It was later reported that a Bulgarian weightlifter, described as a hopeful for the 1992 Olympics, was tested positive for anabolic steroids by a random drug test conducted by the commission in February 1989. (The Canberra Times, 31 March 1989)

## AUSTRALIAN WEIGHTLIFTING AND THE AIS

### The Australian Experience

6.36 As discussed both here and in the Interim Report, weightlifting is a high-risk sport as regards the use of performance enhancing drugs. The Survey of Drug Use in Australian Sport published by the Australian Sports Medicine Federation in December 1982 showed that a high proportion of Australian weightlifters admitted to the use of drugs in order to enhance their performance. For example, 23.6 per cent of weightlifting respondents admitted to the use of stimulants, 15.7 per cent had used anabolic steroids and 12.5 per cent had used diuretics. Moreover, 58 per cent of weightlifters responding to the Survey knew of other lifters taking drugs to improve their performance and 23.6 per cent indicated their intention to use anabolic steroids in the future. The following table, published in the Interim Report, summarised the Survey's results on drug use by weightlifters.

**USE OF DRUGS BY WEIGHTLIFTERS**  
(Based on 72 respondents)

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Percentage using</b>	<b>Survey page</b>
Vitamins	66.7	77
Anti-inflammatory drugs	20.8	86
Analgesics	27.8	96
Bronchodilating drugs	9.7	108
Diuretics	12.5	118
Anabolic steroids	15.7	128
Stimulants	23.6	138
Sedatives	2.8	148

(Interim Report, p. 228)

**Anabolic Steroids**

6.37 The Survey concluded that up to 50 per cent or more of international level Australian weightlifters could be using anabolic steroids. (Interim Report pp. 227-8) The Committee accepts this figure as an indication of minimum use in Australian weightlifting; it may be an underestimate given evidence presented to the Committee by some witnesses (see Chapter Seven). Figures for weightlifting in the 1982 study placed weightlifting above all other Olympic sports surveyed for anabolic steroid use in Australia. It was second only to powerlifting among all competitive sports for anabolic steroid use in Australia.

**Diuretics**

6.38 Diuretics assist the process of rapid weight loss required to compete in a particular weight division for a weightlifter who trains overweight. Diuretics have also been used to help dilute the concentration of banned substances in the urine, making detection more difficult. Mr Bob Frew, a former

international weightlifter, coach and official noted that although the inquiry:

has been rightly concerned with steroid abuse, I believe that the use of diuretics and growth hormone should also be investigated. Diuretics may pose a greater threat to health than steroids, and are used regularly by competing weightlifters. (Submission No. 52, p. 1)

The Committee agrees with this assessment of the danger of diuretic abuse and draws attention to the detailed discussion in Chapter Three concerning the death of Sydney bodybuilder Maurice Ferranti from potassium overdose, following diuretic and steroid use.

### **Stimulants**

6.39 Stimulants are also used by weightlifters because they are thought to be beneficial to the speed and concentration required in the lifting action.

### **The Interim Report: Mr Lyn Jones and Mr Harry Wardle**

6.40 With these high levels of admitted drug abuse amongst Australian weightlifters, the Committee sought evidence concerning the supply of drugs, the effectiveness of drug testing programs and the involvement of officials in both of these aspects of the sport.

6.41 Mr Lyn Jones was head weightlifting coach at the Australian Institute of Sport until December 1988. With regard to the weightlifting unit administered by Mr Lyn Jones and Mr Harry Wardle, the Interim Report found that Messrs Jones and Wardle had supplied and administered anabolic steroids and other banned substances to athletes at the AIS and that public funds could have been used to purchase these drugs. (Interim Report, paras. 6.270-276)

6.42 The Committee also concluded that, by his own admission, Mr Jones had evidence that at least one of his weightlifters (Mr Hambesis) had been taking banned drugs and that two others (Messrs Clark and Byrnes) may have been purchasing banned drugs overseas. However, he took no action to inform the relevant authorities or to further investigate these matters despite his clear responsibilities in this area. (Interim Report, para. 6.272)

6.43 The Committee concluded it was possible Mr Jones had imported banned substances into Australia and that members of his weightlifting squad had been used to facilitate this. (Interim Report, para. 6.274)

6.44 In relation to testing, the Committee found that Mr Jones had involved himself in the establishment of the Brisbane drug-testing Laboratory to effectively determine its capacity to detect banned drugs and thus escape detection for the drugs he was providing to his weightlifters. (Interim Report, para. 6.275)

6.45 The major conclusions of the Interim Report relating to the AIS weightlifting unit and the involvement of Messrs Jones and Wardle may be summarised as follows. The Committee concluded that they were involved with:

1. The supply and administration to AIS weightlifters of anabolic steroids and other banned drugs. (Interim Report, para. 6.273)
2. The possible use of public money to fund the purchase of these drugs. (Interim Report, para. 6.273)
3. The use of anabolic steroids by Mr Stan Hambesis and a cover-up of this fact from the AIS and other weightlifting officials. (Interim Report, para. 6.272)
4. Knowledge that two weightlifters under Lyn Jones' control (Messrs Paul Clark and Dallas Byrnes) may have

illegally imported anabolic steroids into Australia and a failure to do anything about this for five years until legal action by the lifters against the AIS. (Interim Report, paras. 6.63 and 6.272)

5. The supply of urine samples containing banned substances to the Brisbane Drug Testing Laboratory in order to circumvent testing procedures. (Interim Report, paras. 6.228 and 6.275) (Mr Jones admitted he provided the doped urine samples on a number of occasions to the Brisbane Laboratory (Interim Report, pp. 305-311), although he denied they had been obtained from AIS weightlifters.)

6.46 The Committee has noted that Mr Jones stated that Mr Hambesis had been using anabolic steroids and Mr Jones admitted that he had done nothing about reporting or investigating the matter 'as I did not consider that we needed adverse publicity, which would have to come from this'. (Evidence, p. 866) Significantly, both Messrs Jones and Wardle admitted knowledge of 'rumours' of overseas drug purchase in 'large quantities' by Messrs Clark and Byrnes in August or September 1982, and yet nothing was done to investigate until the end of 1987. (Interim Report, pp. 249-250) The Committee considers that the Head Coach of weightlifting and his assistant at the AIS should have been concerned about the ingestion of these 'large quantities' of drugs by the purchasers, and the possible sale of these drugs to other Australian weightlifters, particularly at the AIS.

6.47 The Committee believes these matters should have been investigated impartially by the AWF and then reported to the IWF, in view of the IWF's stated policy that:

Any person found guilty in dealing and trafficking drugs is to be banned for life from involvement in international weightlifting. (Item 9, IWF Sanctions Policy)

In response to a letter from the Committee Chairman, the IWF General Secretary (Dr Ajan) has confirmed that the IWF will



examine these and the issues raised in the Interim Report. (Letter to Chairman, 21 March 1990) This letter is reproduced at Figure 6.2.

6.48 At para. 6.115 (and following) the Interim Report examined in camera evidence concerning an unnamed weightlifter and drug schedules in the handwriting of Mr Jones. The Committee believes the actions of Lyn Jones, Dr David Kennedy and the weightlifter concerned should have been investigated by the AWF and the IWF in relation to a negative test on the AIS weightlifter while allegedly taking anabolic steroids, testosterone and gonadotrophin supplied by Mr Jones. The weightlifter concerned provided what the Committee accepted as a steroid schedule to substantiate his claims. (Interim Report, pp. 271, 272) The IWF policy on this is:

Any person found guilty of manipulating a urine sample in order to falsify the results is suspended for a period of time decided by the IWF Executive Board. This suspension may be in addition to any sanction already in force. (Item 7, IWF Sanctions Policy)

6.49 Further, the Interim Report noted that Mr Jones made large cash transactions for food and vitamins and sought reimbursement of \$2,250 from the AIS between March 1981 and April 1982. (Interim Report, para. 9.50) Evidence before the Committee since the Interim Report reinforced the Committee's doubts that the amounts claimed as expenditure at the Colin Bova Pharmacy in Burwood Sydney (\$1,390), were proper expenditure in a legitimate transaction. Mr Bova, for instance, claimed that Mr Jones purchased Sustagen from him in Sydney and drove it to the AIS in Canberra because 'It was very, very cheap'. (Evidence, p. 3016) Nevertheless, the Committee found that a pharmacy then used by the AIS in Canberra at this time was selling Sustagen for more than forty cents less per can than the price that Mr Bova first advised the Committee he charged Mr Jones. (Evidence, p. 3016)

6.50 The Committee considers that Mr Bova's account of purchases by Lyn Jones at Mr Bova's pharmacy is not credible. The

FIGURE 6.2

By: IWF FAX BUDAPEST-H :26- 3-90 8:18AM : 3611311162-



**INTERNATIONAL  
WEIGHTLIFTING  
FEDERATION**

**PRESIDENT:**  
GOTTFRIED SCHÖDL (AUT)  
**GENERAL SECRETARY:**  
DR. TAMÁS AJÁN (HUN)

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Asia - Maj. Gen. Jansenevaja (INA)  
Europe - Willy Holand (GBR)  
Oceania - Lyn Jones (AUS)  
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South America - Jorge Zai Fernandez (URU)

**Assistant Secretary:**  
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Budapest, 21st March, 1990

Senator John Black, Chairman  
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Dear Mr. Black,

Thank you very much for your letter sent over to us on 28th February, 1990 by telefax concerning an Interim Report on Drugs in Sport and involving Mr. Lyn Jones as well.

This is to advise you that the Executive Board of the International Weightlifting Federation has dealt with the points raised in your letter and first of all wishes to express its thanks to you for having approached our Executive Board in a matter of great importance.

The IWF Executive Board would like to receive further information in this matter, as well as the complete Interim Report including the final standpoints of the Standing Committee.

As soon as these shall be at our disposal, the IWF Executive Board shall elaborate a standpoint and advise you duly about it.

However, in this connection, we wish to clarify following points. Mr. Lyn Jones is a Co-opted Member of the Executive Board of the International Weightlifting Federation, being the elected President of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation.

Further I wish to point out the fact that both in events held in Australia and World, Continental, Regional, Olympic and other international weightlifting competitions held outside Australia, Australian weightlifters have been extensively subjected to anti-doping tests conducted under the auspices of the IWF, and they invariably have proven clean of any banned substances, not having even one single positive result over the years.

We would therefore find it highly regrettable if Australian weightlifting, a sport which has an increasingly successful record including Olympic Championship, were put into an unfavourable light as a consequence of unproven charges based on suppositions and opinions.

Yours sincerely,

*Tamás Aján*  
Dr. Tamás Aján  
IWF General Secretary

ELEKTRO-COOP Nyomda - 900037

Committee considers that Mr Jones may have obtained cash for the purchase overseas of banned drugs by making reimbursement claims at the AIS for transactions that never took place. Further, the Committee considers that, if this activity were taking place, Mr Bova's Pharmacy could have been utilised by Mr Jones.

6.51 As a general principle, the Committee believes sports should be left to administer their own affairs. This is why the Committee made no specific recommendations to either the AWF or the IWF concerning Messrs Jones and Wardle in its Interim Report. Nevertheless, the Committee also believes that it has an obligation to ensure that money appropriated by the Australian Parliament is spent properly. This precludes use of public money to provide banned drugs for athletes, tolerance of AIS scholarship-holders' involvement in the black market for these drugs, and the cover-up of known drug-taking by AIS scholarship holders.

6.52 The Committee further believes that it has some obligation to warn bodies such as the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Olympic Federation and the Australian Commonwealth Games Federation when one of their affiliates or financially-dependent bodies is acting in a manner that condones or ignores these activities. Failure to act leads to an acceptance by athletes of the sports drug culture through an impression that, if not advocated, sports drugs are at least tolerated in the pursuit of success.

#### Response of the IWF and the AWF to the Interim Report

6.53 For these reasons the Committee was extremely concerned to learn directly from AWF officials whether any act of self-regulation may have been exercised in relation to the conclusions in the Interim Report. However, during the Melbourne hearings, the Committee was advised that no action had been taken by the AWF or the IWF following the tabling of the Interim Report.

6.54 The AWF Secretary, Boris Kayser, told the Committee the Interim Report had been a 'very helpful work of scholarship', but that:

I found grave difficulties sometimes in reconciling evidence which was called evidence but which was hearsay, or, if it was direct evidence, it was untested by a hostile trained cross-examiner. (Evidence, p. 3418)

6.55 He said he remained:

an agnostic in so far as that testament [the Interim Report] is concerned. (Evidence, p. 3419)

6.56 Mr Sam Coffa, AWF President, said the Interim Report was a 'matter of innuendos, hearsay and unsubstantiated facts'. In relation to Mr Lyn Jones, no action was taken as it was 'out of our jurisdiction'. (Evidence, p. 3421) Mr Coffa went on to say:

If the International Weightlifting Federation sees fit not to do anything about it, then that is good enough for me. (Evidence, p. 3422)

6.57 In the light of these comments, the Committee noted a claim by Mr Jones reported in The Canberra Times that the AWF had reaffirmed its support (for Mr Jones) by unanimous vote and appointed him coach of the national team at the 1989 World Championships in Athens. (The Canberra Times, 24 January 1990)

6.58 In view of the evidence of Messrs Coffa and Kayser that the AWF had taken no action in relation to Mr Jones following the Interim Report, the Committee sought clarification from Mr Sam Coffa. Mr Coffa provided minutes of the Annual General meeting of the AWF, dated 10 December 1988. This meeting was held during the course of evidence-gathering by the Committee and four days before Mr Jones gave evidence to the Committee.

6.59 The relevant extract from the minutes read as follows:

At this point of the meeting it was resolved that Standing Orders be suspended so as to allow a motion from R. Cashman to be placed before the meeting. This motion was as follows: 'The AWF Board declares its total confidence in the integrity and the record of Federation officials, the weightlifting coaches of the A.I.S. and the weightlifting coaches of N.S.W. and Victoria, whose integrity and values have been besmirched by the allegations made under parliamentary privilege before the Senate Inquiry into Drugs in Sport.' The motion was seconded by B. Kayser. R. Cashman further embellished the matter contained in the motion and the motion itself was carried unanimously. It was then resolved to resume Standing Orders.

The Committee notes therefore that Messrs Coffa and Kayser were not misleading the Committee when they said no action had been taken following the Interim Report. Their confidence in Mr Jones was such that they declared it four days before Mr Jones gave evidence and six months before the Interim Report was tabled in the Senate.

6.60 Mr Sam Coffa further advised that Mr Jones had not been appointed coach of the 1989 Australian World Championships teams; Mr Paul Coffa had been appointed Coach. Mr Lyn Jones had been listed as the IWF delegate. These same minutes of the AWF Executive meeting in July 1989, confirmed that Mr Jones remained President of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation, a position he had held when he gave evidence to the Committee in December 1988. As indicated earlier, in December 1988 Mr Jones also held the position of board member of the IWF.

6.61 The Committee notes that the AWF is not the only member of the IWF to pre-empt external inquiries into drug use by weightlifters or positive tests on weightlifters. In 1988 four Canadian weightlifters tested positive for anabolic steroids in a pre-departure testing program before the Olympic Games in Seoul. After the positive tests, but before the Canadian Commission of Inquiry into the use of Drugs and Banned Practices (The Dubin

Inquiry) had heard evidence from weightlifters, the Canadian Weightlifting Federation conducted its own internal inquiry and cleared the National coach. He was therefore sent as the Canadian coach to the Auckland Commonwealth Games. (Letter from Robin Nunn, Director of Research, Dubin Inquiry, 7 February 1990)

6.62 Further, in November 1989 Mr Derek Casey, the Director of National Services at the British Sports Council, said he 'is not happy with the action taken by the BAWLA (British Amateur Weightlifting Association) when these (positive drug tests) occur. Casey expressed his dissatisfaction with the internal administration of testing in BAWLA'. (The Times, 21 November 1989) The Sports Council is now proceeding with an inquiry into British weightlifting. The inquiry includes in its terms of reference the strengths and weaknesses of the present system of drug control in the sport. The Sports Council's News Release of 13 February 1990 on this matter is at Figure 6.3.

6.63 The Committee notes that both Canada and the UK are currently investigating drug use in sport and negotiating with Australian sporting officials to set up agreements to minimise drug use by Commonwealth Games athletes.

## CONCLUSION

6.64 The Committee concludes that the AWF has taken no effective action to prevent a recurrence of the activities outlined in the Interim Report.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendation Twelve

6.65 That, with regard to the conclusions of the Interim Report concerning Mr Lyn Jones:

- . the Australian Sports Commission conduct an investigation;

## News Release ● News Release ● News Release

The Sports Council



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Tuesday 13 February 1990

## SPORTS COUNCIL NAMES DRUGS IN WEIGHTLIFTING ENQUIRY CHAIRMAN

The Sports Council today named Norman Jacobs, a senior partner in a leading firm of solicitors, as the Chairman of its enquiry into drug abuse in weightlifting.

The exact terms of reference have yet to be agreed with the British Amateur Weightlifting Association, but the enquiry will examine, inter alia:-

- the existing evidence of drug abuse in the sport, both in the U.K and internationally.
- the strengths and weaknesses of the present system of drug control in the sport. (This will include detailed investigation, undertaken in conjunction with the Sports Council for Wales, into the circumstances leading to the recent positive findings on two weightlifters at the Commonwealth Games.)
- the creation of a new and more effective programme of doping control.

The Council considered the whole question of drug abuse at its February meeting, held on Monday, and reaffirmed its commitment to random, out of competition testing. It also announced that 130 independent sampling officers had now been fully trained, that a further 115 officers were at various stages of appointment and training and that testing had, so far, been concentrated on particular sports.

- . the results of that investigation be forwarded to the Australian Weightlifting Federation for its information, advice and any appropriate action; and
- . the results of the investigation and a report on any subsequent action on the part of the AWF be forwarded to the International Weightlifting Federation for its consideration with a view to disciplinary action.

#### Recommendation Thirteen

6.66 That, with regard to the conclusions of the Interim Report concerning Mr Harry Wardle:

- . the Australian Sports Commission conduct an investigation;
- . the conclusions of that investigation be provided to the Australian Weightlifting Federation for its information, advice and any appropriate action;
- . the results of the investigation be communicated to the Australian Institute of Sport with a view to disciplinary action; and
- . the results of the investigation and advice of disciplinary action taken be forwarded to the International Weightlifting Federation for any action it should take.