

CHAPTER SEVEN

WEIGHTLIFTING II

THE AWF AND DRUG USE

The Australian Weightlifting Federation Inc (AWF)

7.1 The President of the AWF is Mr Sam Coffa, and its Executive Director is Mr Bruce Walsh. Other office bearers include Mr Paul Coffa, Treasurer, and Mr Boris Kayser, Secretary. Dr David Kennedy is the Chairman of the Medical Committee of the Federation.

7.2 The Committee was told by Mr Bill Frew, who had been involved in weightlifting in various capacities for twenty years, that:

steroid usage is promoted by leading officials of the Australian Weightlifting Federation. This is because these officials are also coaches, whose power base, and in some cases livelihood, depends on continued success of their athletes, a success which is not possible without chemical assistance. (Submission No. 52, p.1)

7.3 Specific allegations have been made about Mr Paul Coffa, Dr David Kennedy and Mr Bruce Walsh.

Mr Paul Coffa

7.4 Mr Paul Coffa is the Executive Director of the Victorian Weightlifting Association and for 20 years has been the coach of the Hawthorn Citizens' Youth Club 'weightlifting section'. (Evidence, p. 3349) Mr Coffa told the Committee that his association with the sport of weightlifting spans 31 years and he said:

I have never once in my life ever been associated with drugs. My life has been devoted fully to the sport. I have produced hundreds of national champions in this country and hundreds of State Champions as well as Olympic and Commonwealth Games representatives. This was all done on a voluntary basis without my ever receiving one single dollar towards it. (Evidence, p. 3350)

Allegations about Paul Coffa

Mr Nigel Martin

7.5 Mr Nigel Martin alleged to the Committee on 7 December 1988:

I can certainly confirm that Mr Paul Coffa ... has, over a long period of time, given to and encouraged the use by his lifters of anabolic steroids. (Evidence, p. 697)

He explained that one of Mr Paul Coffa's methods was:

to provide young lifters with an envelope which contained tablets - between 100 and 150 in this particular instance - and the athlete was not told what the tablets were. He was told they were vitamins and, 'If you take them you will get strong', and they did. (Evidence, p. 698)

According to Mr Martin the lifters were usually told to take one or two of these tablets a day. Mr Martin commented:

It is brilliant because the kids never know what they are taking. If they say to Mr Coffa, 'He supplied me with steroids', how can it be proved? (Evidence, p. 699)

7.6 Mr Coffa's response to this allegation was:

Yes, we have given kids envelopes - hundreds of them, even thousands ... Everyone is aware in our sport about promotion and the material that goes out from the office, and to save money we distribute constantly throughout the

clubs. The only time we have given kids anything was a few years ago when we bought some amino acid and distributed it to quite a few lifters. It cost so much that we never did it again, but everyone was aware of it. (Evidence, p. 3352)

7.7 Mr Martin told the Committee that he had spoken to a number of lifters who had confirmed Mr Paul Coffa's involvement with steroids. These were Mr Michael Brittain (see next Section), Mr Frank Falcone, Mr David Lowenstein, Mr Robert Kabbas and Mr Neville Cornelius. (Evidence, p. 698)

7.8 Mr Frank Falcone informed the Committee that he:

was most angered to learn that Mr Nigel Martin alleged that he had spoken to me and that I had said that Paul Coffa was providing steroids to the weightlifters at the Hawthorn Weightlifting Club.

I wish you to know that I take grave offence at the use of my name in Mr Martin's lying allegations.

I have not spoken to Nigel for many years, and I most certainly did not tell him the lies attributed to me.

If he had not been speaking under Parliamentary privilege, I would not have hesitated to sue him for such a gross slander. (Letter to Chairman, 9 November 1989)

7.9 Mr David Lowenstein also wrote to the Committee to say:

I have been told that Mr Nigel Martin has told the Committee that I 'confirmed that Mr Paul Coffa was providing steroids to the weightlifters at the Hawthorn Club'.

This allegation is quite untrue. In fact I have never said to Mr Nigel Martin that Paul Coffa was providing steroids to anyone because it simply is not true to make such an allegation. (Letter to Chairman, 6 November 1989)

7.10 When Mr Robert Kabbas appeared before the Committee he said that he had no personal knowledge of the distribution of

anabolic steroids at the Hawthorn gym (Evidence p. 3203) and he denied that he had used or received anabolic steroids. (Evidence, p. 3206) With regard to Mr Cornelius, Mr Coffa said that Mr Cornelius:

stayed at Hawthorn no more than 12 months, put on 500 grams of body weight and his standard is not even C-grade. Why should I have used steroids on this kid? (Evidence, p. 3352)

Mr Michael Brittain

7.11 Mr Nigel Martin identified Mr Brittain as one of the lifters able to confirm Mr Paul Coffa's involvement with anabolic steroids (Evidence, p. 698) and said that Mr Brittain was aged 16 when first given anabolic steroids by Mr Paul Coffa. (Evidence, p. 699) Mr Brittain stated:

I was a member of the Hawthorn club from mid-1976 to 1982 and I was supplied with drugs by the coach ... Paul Coffa, on a number of occasions from December 1980 until I left that gymnasium at that time in 1982. (Evidence, p. 3149)

7.12 Mr Brittain claimed that he was 18 at the time anabolic steroids were first given to him (Evidence, p. 3151), (not 16 as stated by Mr Martin; Evidence p. 699). However, Mr Brittain suggested that Mr Paul Coffa may have been supplying drugs to athletes as young as 15. He described how in either 1983 or 1984, while in Italy for the junior championships, Mr Paul Coffa:

had come across a drug there that was available over the counter in pharmacies, and it was a composite drug with a small amount of anabolic agent - steroid - plus vitamins C and B, and it had several other food supplement type aspects to it. He enthused about this drug. He thought it would be a lovely drug to put young lifters on - that is, 15- to 16-year olds ... because it was fairly weak, but it also had a health aspect to it in that it was a food additive-type product as well. I got the impression that he bought this in very large quantities when he was there. (Evidence, p. 3191)

7.13 According to Mr Brittain the drugs he received were not supplied in envelopes, as described by Mr Martin, but in bottles. However, Mr Brittain agreed that he was not told what the drugs were. He described how:

I had a conversation with Paul late in 1980 and he outlined by implication what was about to take place. A week or two later I was called into the office at the gymnasium. There were a number of bottles on the table without labels. One bottle was handed to me and I was told the dosage to take. At no time was I told what the substance was. The biological changes that followed were evident to me. I was a fairly bright and inquisitive boy at the time. It was easy to see that once I started using the drug that ... it was ... what it was. (Evidence, p. 3150)

7.14 Mr Brittain had earlier told the Committee that the drug he had first been given was Dianabol (Evidence, p. 3149) in 5 milligram white scored tablets, made in Australia by Ciba-Geigy. (Evidence, p. 3150) He explained that 'later we got drugs with labels on them' and that the dose was to take two 5 milligram tablets a day, the same every day, for about five weeks. (Evidence p. 3152) No injectables were given. (Evidence, p. 3153) Compared with many of the other regimes brought to the notice of the Committee, this is a very basic and low dose schedule for anabolic steroids.

7.15 Mr Brittain said that the drug being supplied changed in mid-1981 when Ciba-Geigy discontinued the production of Dianabol in Australia. (Evidence, p. 3154) From that time on he was given Lonavar or Orabolin in 2.5 milligram tablets. (Evidence, pp. 3154 and 3155) Mr Brittain told the Committee that the drug bottles had labels on them by late 1981 to 1982. (Evidence, p. 3161) According to his own evidence, this would have been after the change from Dianabol. Mr Brittain did not explain how he knew that the pills first given to him were Dianabol.

7.16 No direct evidence was provided by Mr Brittain as to whether other lifters were receiving performance enhancing drugs

from Mr Coffa. However, he was under the impression that this might be happening. He explained that, 'There was no open discussion amongst lifters - at that period of time anyway - as to who took what'. (Evidence, p. 3154) Mr Brittain said that the drugs were always supplied to him when no one else was present. (Evidence, p. 3162) The reason Mr Brittain thought drugs were being supplied to other lifters was that:

Every time I went into the office and received one bottle, there were usually a series of bottles, so I assumed there were other recipients of the bottles. (Evidence, p. 3154)

He said that there would have been 'maybe six or eight or ten bottles' (Evidence, p. 3155) and noted:

I do not recall Paul ever saying 'This drug is for this person' or 'I am going to give so and so this dosage'. However, I have had conversations about steroids with him. (Evidence, p. 3191)

7.17 The statement that drugs were not widely discussed in the gym was supported by Mr Bill Stellios, who trained at Hawthorn from 1982-86 and told the Committee:

The only thing that was discussed between me and other athletes was basically the diuretics. Steroids were not a topic that anyone would discuss in the gym ... Due to Paul Coffa saying to others to keep their mouth sealed. (Evidence, p. 3048)

Mr Stellios, however, suspected a few of the Hawthorn lifters of taking performance enhancing drugs 'because of the results achieved in training, local competition and overseas competition'. (Evidence, p. 3049)

7.18 Mr Brittain admitted to the Committee that before leaving Hawthorn in 1982 he had been talking to junior lifters about his own personal use of steroids and said:

Also, I think I would have given them the presumption that Paul would eventually give them steroids ... (Evidence, p. 3172)

Further, Mr Brittain said that since leaving the Club in 1982:

I have had personal conversations with a number of lifters, past and present - not very many detailed conversations as to what they took, or how much they took, or for how long they took it. Usually I would speak to them in the form of advice. I would say, 'Look, so much drug will go with this drug or that drug' or 'In my opinion, this '. (Evidence, p. 3174)

While Mr Brittain provided advice on these matters, he claimed that Mr Paul Coffa was basically unconcerned when we reported any minor side effects or other problems we had. He said that Paul Coffa:

always craved results from the lifters and he craved great discipline and great loyalty, almost to a fanatical degree, in my opinion. (Evidence, p. 3196)

7.19 Mr Brittain told the Committee that he could not remember whether he paid for his first course of steroids but said, 'I think later I did'. (Evidence, p. 3154) In 1982, Mr Paul Coffa was no longer coaching Mr Brittain but 'merely supplying him'. (Evidence, p. 3156) Mr Brittain stated:

by that time I may have been paying ... I guess it would have been somewhere around \$20; somewhere around the prescription rate; I cannot be sure of that. (Evidence, p. 3161)

Mr Grant Ellison

7.20 Mr Grant Ellison, a self-confessed former dealer in performance enhancing drugs, told the Committee that lifters had purchased anabolic steroids from either Mr Paul Coffa or Mr Sam Coffa. (Evidence, p. 3871) Mr Ian Traill may have been one of those lifters. (Evidence, p. 3872) When asked about this allegation Mr Traill wrote to the Committee that:

The answer to that question is NO. Although Mr Paul Coffa came up to me at a competition at Mt Clear Tech High and made it clear to me that he want to introduce drugs to me for my lifters, I said that they will show improvement because of the training program I had them on. [sic]

The statement that Mr Paul Coffa made [was] that, 'I have a lot of good lifters and they need more so they could make more improvement'. I said I don't know what you mean. Then Paul Coffa said, they need supplements. I said no their training program was fine. Then Paul Coffa walked off. [sic] (Letter to Committee Secretary, 14 December 1989)

Importation of Anabolic Steroids

7.21 One of Paul Coffa's responses to the allegations made against him was to say, 'Where would I get all of these drugs?'. (Evidence, p. 3352) Reference has already been made to the claim by Mr Brittain that Mr Coffa bought an anabolic preparation in Italy for young lifters. (Evidence, p. 3191) Mr Brittain also made allegations concerning a trip to Brazil in 1982 for the World Junior championships. Matters relating to the purchase of anabolic steroids by this Australian weightlifting team were examined in the Interim Report (see pages 248-50; 300-1; and 323).

7.22 Mr Brittain confirmed that he bought steroids in Brazil for his personal use, saying that they 'were very cheap' and lasted him for a long time afterwards. (Evidence, p. 3167) Mr Brittain told the Committee that while two or three members of the squad in Brazil probably did not buy anabolic steroids:

most of the other guys bought steroids to my knowledge. That means at least five or six members of the team bought steroids, including the three Hawthorn members. (Evidence, p. 3166)

Mr Brittain claimed that he was:

present at one particular transaction with one of the guys ... I asked him, 'Are you taking them home to use them yourself and stick them on top of the dosage that you get?'. At that time I had been on speaking terms with a couple of guys that used steroids in the Hawthorn Club ... and he said, 'No, no, I am taking these back to Paul. I am buying them for Paul for the club'. (Evidence, p. 3167)

7.23 The Committee notes that Mr Brittain had earlier said that there was no open discussion among lifters 'as to who took what', (Evidence, p. 3154) a statement supported by Mr Bill Stellios who said that during the period 1982-86, 'steroids were not a topic that anyone would discuss in the gym'. (Evidence, p. 3048) Mr Brittain, before giving evidence about the Brazil trip, had implied that he had no direct knowledge of other lifters taking steroids, although he said that prior to leaving the club in 1982 he had talked to junior lifters about his own personal use. (Evidence, p. 3172)

7.24 The Committee also noted Mr Brittain's assertion that Mr Paul Clark bought a vast quantity of drugs in Brazil and said 'I am talking about a suitcase full'. (Evidence, p. 3168) Rumours to this effect had been made known to Mr Lyn Jones, head coach of weightlifting at the AIS, who was Mr Clark's coach, but Mr Jones had not taken any action on this matter until December 1987, several years after Mr Clark had left the Institute. Mr Clark denied that he had bought anabolic steroids in Brazil. (Interim Report, pp. 248-250)

Discussion

7.25 In response to Mr Paul Coffa's question 'Where would I get all these drugs', the Committee recalls its conclusion in the Interim Report, that while Mr Lyn Jones did not travel to Brazil, 'it is possible that Mr Jones has imported banned substances into Australia and that he has used members of his weightlifting squad to assist him in doing this'. (Interim Report, para. 6.274) That

could have been the source of the drugs obtained by Mr Paul Coffa.

7.26 Alternatively, Mr Paul Coffa could have imported the banned drugs himself, also using Australian weightlifters as couriers. Mr Brittain claimed that one weightlifter advised him 'I am taking these back to Paul'. (Evidence, p. 3167)

7.27 With regard to the allegations made by Mr Nigel Martin and Mr Dallas Byrnes (who said that Mr Coffa was involved in the distribution of drugs to his lifters; Evidence, p. 1000), Mr Paul Coffa claimed that they were 'a pack of lies and they are fabricated stories'. He also claimed that the evidence given by Messrs Brittain and Stellios was false. (Evidence, p. 3350) He stated that:

There are no drugs at Hawthorn. Hawthorn has a reputation throughout the country and in the Commonwealth of being a clean, highly disciplined, drug free centre of excellence. (Evidence, p. 3350)

7.28 Mr Coffa denied providing performance enhancing drugs to any lifters (Evidence, p. 3417) and was supported by a submission signed by Mr Boris Kayser, Treasurer of the Victorian Weightlifting Association Inc which stated that the Association:

knows Paul Coffa as a completely honourable man, and has no doubt that he has never administered, nor advocated, counselled or procured the use of performance enhancing illicit drugs. (Evidence, p. 3343)

7.29 Mr Paul Coffa pointed out that three of the five people identified by Mr Martin as being able to support the allegations had denied that this was so. Of the other two, Mr Michael Brittain had been coached by Mr Martin, and Mr Neville Cornelius had been coached by Mr Brittain. (Evidence, p. 3351) Mr Dallas Byrnes had never tried out at Hawthorn and has been associated with Mr Martin in Canberra, (Evidence, p. 3353) while Mr Bill Stellios had been asked to leave Hawthorn in 1986. (Evidence, p. 3350) Mr Coffa also pointed out to the Committee that Mr Nigel

Martin had coached his wife, Gael Martin, who had tested positive for anabolic steroids in two different sports, (Evidence, p. 3351) and that Mr Martin had earlier tried to discredit the Hawthorn Club in 1984, after being refused membership of the Victorian Weightlifting Association. (Evidence, p. 3352-3) On that occasion Mr Martin had written to the Minister for Sport and Recreation in Victoria stating that Mr Coffa was not acting in the spirit of an executive director; drugs were not mentioned.

Mr Sam Coffa

7.30 While several incidents are noted in the next Section of this Chapter where Mr Sam Coffa has acted reprehensively concerning drug tests, the one (tentative) allegation received implicating Mr Sam Coffa in the supply of performance enhancing drugs was not corroborated. Mr Michael Brittain, who made a number of very serious allegations about Mr Paul Coffa said, when asked specifically whether Mr Sam Coffa would be involved:

I have no knowledge of it. I believe that he would not have too much information. He may assume or presume that that may be going on but I do not think he would have any personal involvement. (Evidence, p. 3203)

7.31 The Committee notes Mr Sam Coffa's claim that when he made the decision to test everybody during the 1987 National championships he did so unilaterally; he told the Committee:

I did that for the very reason that obviously, as Paul was connected with lifters and is a member of the executive board of the Australian Weightlifting Federation, I did not want anyone to know anything about it other than myself. (Evidence, p. 3377-8)

Dr David Kennedy

7.32 Dr David Kennedy, who first became involved in weightlifting in 1980, is Chairman of the AWF Medical Committee. Since 1986 he has also been a member of the Medical Committee of the International Weightlifting Federation. He is President of

the Oceania Weightlifting Federation Medical Committee and President of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation Medical Committee. (Evidence, p. 3360-1)

7.33 Dr Kennedy was the subject of numerous mentions before the Committee. For example, Mr Ian Traill advised:

I observed at a contest at St. Albans Tech School a young lifter from Hawthorn being taken into a room by Dr David Kennedy. When the lifter left the room he had blood on the inside of his arm with a bandaid over a needle mark. The lifter took the bandaid off later where I observed the needle mark. This lifter collapsed before the contest. He came good by the time the contest was ready to start. (Letter to Committee Secretary, 14 December 1989)

7.34 In a letter dated 10 January 1990 to the Secretary of the Committee, Dr Kennedy explained that because of the large number of weightlifting competitions he has attended, he could not recall the specific incident. In responding to Mr Traill's comment (on a hypothetical basis), Dr Kennedy informed the Committee:

Because of the lack of information I cannot provide any further assistance with respect to the nature of the drug administered but almost certainly it would have been an injection of local anaesthetic for the treatment of some minor ailment ...

In relation to the cause of the weightlifter's collapse it has on occasion occurred when even drawing the fluid to be injected into the syringe that many of the sports men and women that I have treated become quite queasy and have even on occasions fainted at the sight of the syringe ... A vasovagal attack is not uncommon ... Usually such an event ... is very transient and temporary and soon afterwards the competitor is able to perform without any disturbance or disruption to their completion of the sporting event. This has been supported by Mr Traill's claim that the weightlifter was able to continue and actually performed during the competition. (Letter to Committee Secretary, 10 January 1990)

Mr Bruce Walsh

7.35 Mr Bruce Walsh is the AWF Executive Director. From May 1967 to October 1984 he was the Secretary Supervisor of the Western Suburbs Police Citizens Boys Club. (Evidence, p. 3074)

7.36 Mr Glenn Jones explained to the Committee that in the mid 1970s:

weightlifting in Sydney was centred around the inner western suburbs of Newtown, Glebe, Burwood and Canterbury, all of which had police and citizens youth clubs located at them ... At Newtown, Glebe and Burwood there were police as coaches. Those police were senior constables, Bruce Walsh and Bob Taylor. (Evidence, p. 711)

The then Constable Walsh was named by Mr Glenn Jones as a supplier of steroids to weightlifters at the police boys clubs. (Evidence, pp. 710 and 716) A lifter, Mr Christopher Stewart, spoke to Mr Jones of Constable Walsh 'using him as a guinea pig' and Mr Stewart 'regularly used to elaborate on the types and dosages of such drugs that he took'. (Evidence, pp. 716 and 723)

7.37 Mr Joseph Brent described to the Committee a discussion between himself and Mr Bruce Walsh in Melbourne. The then Constable Walsh:

said that members of his weightlifting club were using [anabolic steroids]. I cannot say he said to me, 'I gave them to them', but that was the impression I got, because he was a coach ... I remember I took objection to that discussion, because what he was saying was that in order for him to keep his job as a policeman in charge of a police boys club, he had to show his superiors that the club was doing well. (Evidence, p. 2871)

7.38 Mr Brent also described a conversation with Mr Bill Stellios who had been lifting at that stage for one or two years and went to help Mr Brent give a demonstration in Bankstown. Mr Brent asked Mr Stellios:

'Are you taking steroids?' He said, 'Yes'. I said, 'where are you getting them from?' and the word he used was 'Walshie'. I then asked him, 'Does your father know this?' and he said, 'No'. (Evidence, p. 2871)

Mr Brent thought Mr Stellios would have been between 14 and 16 at that stage. Mr Stellios told the Committee he started weightlifting at Burwood Police Boys Club at the end of 1972, when he was 14, with Bruce Walsh as his coach. (Evidence, p. 3026)

7.39 In 1977 Mr Brent was one of two champion weightlifters (the other being Mr George Vasil) who made statutory declarations that anabolic steroids had been given to junior lifters by Constables Bruce Walsh and Bob Taylor. (Evidence, p. 2866) Mr Brent admitted to taking anabolic steroids himself in the early 1960s; he could not remember whether anabolic steroids were banned sporting drugs at the time he made the statutory declaration. (Evidence, p. 2869) He explained:

Why we took objection to this part of it was that I felt that, as an adult, if I wanted to take steroids, that was my prerogative. I was over 21 and I could make my own decision. But I felt it was wrong for 12-, 13-, and 14-year-old kids to be given steroids and if they had been anything like me, they would not have even known what they were taking ... one would think. (Evidence, p. 2870)

7.40 Mr Walsh pointed out that the allegations made by Mr Vasil related to 1972, when steroids were legal. He also said that when interviewed by Inspector Byrne after the allegations were first made, Mr Vasil softened his allegations to say that he had been encouraged by Mr Walsh to take steroids. Mr Walsh then claimed that Mr Vasil's present story was that Mr Walsh discussed with Mr Vasil his taking steroids. (Evidence, p. 3109) Mr Walsh further claimed that Mr Vasil had admitted that he was coerced into making some of the statements. (Evidence, p. 3113) In fact Mr George Vasil's statement to Inspector Topping on 28 February 1989 was that:

In 1972 when I was training at Burwood Police Boys Club and I was 22 years of age I needed to increase my weight ... and then Bruce Walsh spoke to me about anabolic steroids. He told me that they would help me to increase my weight. He also gave me some material on steroids which I read and gave back to him. What I remember after that is that I saw Dr Tahmindjis in Kingsford ... I remember getting a bottle of steroids but I do not know whether I got it on a script from Dr Tahmindjis or whether it was given to me by Bruce Walsh. (Evidence, p. 3114)

7.41 Mr Bill Stelliios told the Committee that at the age of 18, he was approached by Mr Walsh who offered a bottle of around 100 tablets. At that time Mr Stelliios did not know what these tablets were, although he 'found out later through the second bottle [he] was taking that the pills were Dianabol'. (Evidence, p. 3042-3) (This is inconsistent with the evidence of Mr Brent that Mr Stelliios had been taking steroids while only 15 or 16 years old; Evidence, p. 2871) Mr Stelliios also claimed that he was introduced by Mr Walsh to diuretics 'as a very young kid of 15'. (Evidence, p. 3047) At that time diuretics were not a banned substance.

7.42 According to Mr Stelliios, the first course of steroids given to him by Mr Walsh involved taking four to five tablets a day for a three to four week period. (Evidence, p. 3044) He recollected that he had been asked to pay for these tablets, but that he had told Mr Walsh he could not afford to pay. (Evidence, p. 3060) Mr Stelliios had told Chief Inspector Topping that he had been supplied with a bottle of Dianabol by Mr Walsh, who told him the cost was \$25. Even though he refused to pay, he was still given the drug. (Evidence, p. 3077)

7.43 Mr Stelliios gave a number of conflicting accounts of how he discovered the drugs supplied by Mr Walsh were Dianabol. He first told the Committee he found out because the second bottle was labelled. (Evidence, p. 3042-3) He agreed that he had told Chief Inspector Topping he had learnt that the tablets were Dianabol from Mr Walsh. (Evidence, p. 3059) He then said that one

of the bottles had a label, but he did not think the first did and that he was not 100 per cent sure if Bruce Walsh had told him that they were Dianabol at the time. (Evidence, p. 3060) He later described an argument with Mr Walsh in which:

I asked him, 'What are they?'. He told me something along the lines of them improving my performance. I was not impressed. He told me that I would not improve if I did not take them ... I started taking them and the rest I just threw away after a while, when I started retaining fluid and various things. (Evidence, p. 3061)

Source of Steroids supplied by Mr Walsh

7.44 According to Mr Glenn Jones the source of supply of the steroids supplied to police boys weightlifters was a doctor in Kingsford later identified as Dr Alex Tahmindjis. (Evidence, p. 720) The Medical Journal of Australia dated June 1976 (pages 991-3) published an article by Dr Tahmindjis entitled 'The use of anabolic steroids by athletes to increase body weight and strength'. It describes a study over 18 months of 20 male weightlifters and concludes that 'no side effects of significance were recorded, and marked increases in strength and body weight were achieved'.

7.45 Mr Walsh agreed that he knew Dr Tahmindjis and that he may have taken weightlifters to him for treatment of injuries, but said he had never approached him for the supply of anabolic steroids. (Evidence, p. 3075) Mr Stellios, when asked whether he could recall participating in any experiment involving Dr Alex Tahmindjis in order to monitor his performance after taking the steroids supplied by Mr Walsh said, 'Now that you mention it, I do not know the doctor's name, but yes, there were tests completed'. (Evidence, p. 3044)

7.46 Mr Brent told the Committee that, after making the statutory declaration concerning steroid use at the police clubs and in order to find out where the steroids were coming from, Medibank was approached and asked to investigate whether steroids

were being given on scripts from Dr Alex Tahmindjis. (Evidence, p. 2874) After being told that Medibank could not find anything:

we thought we should go to the distributors. I think it was a company called Geigy. I spoke to a salesperson at Geigy who told me that Dr Tahmindjis was buying the things in bulk. (Evidence, p. 2875)

7.47 While Dr Tahmindjis may have been supplying drugs directly he was also providing prescriptions (see para. 9.63). The drugs could have been dispensed from Mr Colin Bova's pharmacy in Burwood, a pharmacy at which Mr Walsh's wife was employed. (Evidence, p. 985-6) Mr Bova claimed that athletes were never supplied with anabolic steroids from his pharmacy without a doctor's prescription. (Evidence, p. 2987) He said that he had never heard of Dr Tahmindjis and did not know the whereabouts of his practice; (Evidence, p. 2999) he emphasised that he had 'never supplied restricted drugs without a prescription to anyone'. (Evidence, p. 3002)

7.48 Mr Bruce Walsh told the Committee that, in early 1989:

and as a response to certain allegations, I asked Mr Colin Bova ... whether he could recall ever dispensing prescriptions for anabolic steroids to any identifiable weightlifters from the Burwood Police Citizens Youth Club. He replied that the only person that he could recollect dispensing anabolic steroids to was Bill Stellios, who on several occasions in the latter part of 1987/early 1988 presented prescriptions for steroids. He also stated that to the best of his memory they were made out in another persons name. (Evidence, p. 3073)

Mr Stellios said that he had not collected steroids for himself or any other person (Evidence, p. 3053) and that he was not using anabolic steroids at that time. (Evidence, p. 3055) Mr Walsh provided to the Committee a script for anabolic steroids made out to a Mr Czaplá (see Figure 7.7). Mr Walsh's wife was an employee of the Bova pharmacy and had access to the scripts. (Evidence, p. 3093) Mr Walsh had asked his wife to examine all the scripts

stored at the pharmacy, looking for any in the names of Stellios or Czapla. (Evidence, p. 3094) When Mr Stellios was shown the script he told the Committee:

it is made out to the guy who was training me at the time but I had nothing to do with the script and nothing to do with the drugs involved. If I wanted to obtain anabolic steroids, I am sure I could have done it on my own. (Evidence, p. 3052)

He said that he had never used Anapolan, the drug concerned. (Evidence, p. 3056)

7.49 Mr Walsh informed the Committee that Anapolan 'is apparently a powerful and dangerous anabolic steroid' and stated that:

Shortly after the discovering of the ... prescription I question [sic] Czapla about the matter and he admitted obtaining the prescription for Stellios from a 'friendly' Polish doctor. Furthermore, he said to me that 'if anyone endeavours to create trouble he will say that it is for his ...' and Czapla made a physical motion indicating the area of his genitals. (Evidence, p. 3068)

Police Investigation

7.50 The allegations made to the Committee concerning the use of steroids and their supply by police at the New South Wales Police Boys Clubs were investigated in July 1989 by a senior officer of the New South Wales Internal Affairs Branch. (Evidence, p. 2833) The advice provided to this Committee by the New South Wales government was that:

Despite conflicting evidence, it seems likely that [Mr Bruce Walsh] did supply anabolic steroids in the 1970s to weightlifters at the Western Suburbs Police Citizens Youth Club. (Evidence, p. 2834)

The investigating officer, Chief Inspector Topping, explained that he 'came to a certain view so far as Mr Walsh was concerned' and that:

There were two conflicting versions. I was placed in a position of having to decide on the balance of probabilities, ... and having regard to interviewing [Mr Walsh and Mr Stellios] and from the evidence I learnt, I formed the view that on the civil onus only, that Walsh did supply steroids to Stellios. (Evidence, p. 2838)

Discussion

7.51 Mr Walsh's response to the allegations made against him was that they were 'nothing but a litany of fabrication based upon the motive of personal vendetta'. (Evidence, p. 2841) He stated:

I have never given anabolic steroids or any other performance enhancing drugs to any person. I have never encouraged any person to use these substances nor have I condoned their use. (Evidence, p. 2841)

He told the Committee that the allegations relating to steroids did not surface until after a political struggle in the New South Wales Weightlifting Association. When it became obvious that the Walsh group had gained control:

There was only one way [the competing faction] could get a leg back in the door again. The way to do that was to oust Taylor and me, because we were the power brokers as well as the coaches ... If they could create something that was of some consequence - with an accusation such as this and with our being members of the police force - we would be out on our ear quick as you could blink your eyelids. (Evidence, p. 3103)

Mr Walsh further commented:

I can accept with a certain amount of equanimity the accusation of a mature athlete or an older athlete taking them, irrespective

of whether it is wrong, but I take great umbrage at the fact of being accused of giving 12- and 13-year-old boys steroids in bottles with vitamins marked on them. (Evidence, p. 3102)

Mr Walsh dismissed the allegations of Mr Stellios by stating that he and Mr Stellios were bitter enemies, and that was the reason Mr Stellios told lies about him. (Evidence, p. 3116)

THE AWF AND DRUG TESTING

Background

7.52 In its submission to the Committee the Australian Weightlifting Federation placed considerable emphasis on its commitment to dope testing and on the number of tests on weightlifters carried out by the Federation itself, by other bodies, such as the Australian Institute of Sport, and international bodies. The Committee was informed that:

Over the past three years the Australian Weightlifting Federation has escalated its involvement in doping control, especially combining the taking of deterrent and preventative measures. The Australian Weightlifting Federation has recently formed a Doping Commission to co-ordinate its activities in doping control so as to co-ordinate the number of tests performed each year, maintain standardised sanctions under the guidelines of the IOC and the IWF and also to provide preventative measures which fundamentally involve information to athletes, coaches, parents and administrators. (Evidence, p. 3336)

7.53 While there is no doubt that the doping control activity of the Australian Weightlifting Federation has increased, questions remain about its effectiveness. The Interim Report noted the use of anabolic steroids by athletes at the Australian Institute of Sport and described an incident in which one weightlifter, while taking drugs, was tested and found negative. Further, Mr Bill Stellios suggested that the drug testing was basically a public relations exercise, saying of Mr Paul Coffa

that he was 'the guy who practically ran these tests. He got David Kennedy to run these tests'. (Evidence, p. 3050)

7.54 Mr Bill Frew, a former international competitor, coach, official and national champion who, before 1984, used steroids, suggested to the Committee that:

the AWF cannot be objective about testing procedures. Officials have a vested interest in making sure their lifters are not detected ... This means that drug testing at major competitions is a PR exercise only, designed to convince the public, the government and the sponsors that everything is above board. Lifters simply discontinue steroid use prior to the contest and test clean, allowing the officials to claim the sport is drug free ... Random testing is also open to the same abuse. As long as partial officials conduct the tests there is no chance of objectivity. Worse, such tests may be used as a weapon to silence rebel lifters. (Submission No. 52, p. 1)

7.55 Mr Dallas Byrnes suggested to the Committee that the Federation conducted screening tests before major events to ensure that Australian lifters would not test positive in international competitions. He described how the:

Federation would test you, for instance, if you were selected to go to the Commonwealth Games: if you are positive you just do not go. (Evidence, p. 1001)

This situation in Australian weightlifting could reflect that prevailing for some time in Eastern Europe, and the German Democratic Republic in particular. A media article from November 1989 has reported:

East Germany yesterday admitted for the first time that some of its athletes had been caught in tests for illegal drugs ... The doping centre at Kreischa is one of 19 administered around the world by the International Olympic Committee, though the East German laboratory tends to concentrate on testing its own nationals ... The East German disclosure brought an immediate reaction from defector, former Olympic champion Hans-Georg Aschenbach

who said it was merely a start in disclosing the truth ...

"Kreisch is one of the centres where East German athletes are sent to make sure they are clean before they go abroad to represent their country." (Daily News, 9 November 1989)

7.56 Drug testing for Australian weightlifting is now carried out by the independent Australian Sports Drug Agency ASDA. Mr Steve Haynes, Executive Director of ASDA, told the Committee that:

The Weightlifting Federation, since we have had control of weightlifters who are aspiring to represent Australia in Auckland, has been most co-operative, both in Victoria and in New South Wales at Homebush. (Evidence, p. 2894)

Accordingly, limited opportunity now exists for the sorts of behaviour implied by the allegations presented to the Committee. However, previous activities reflect on the integrity and the credibility of senior AWF officials, and to this extent are important in terms of the public funding of weightlifting and the role and location of the weightlifting component of the Australian Institute of Sport.

7.57 With the Australian Sports Drug Agency now testing weightlifters, it is no longer possible for advance notification to be given of when testing will take place. Nevertheless, following the 1989 National weightlifting championship in Melbourne, at which drug testing did not take place, Dr Kennedy telephoned Mr Steve Haynes at ASDA. According to Mr Haynes:

the discussion focused on what the guidelines for drug testing were, when they would be announced by the new Agency and how they would know what the arrangements were. (In Camera Evidence, p. 1182)

Mr Haynes explained that he interpreted the phone call from Dr Kennedy:

as a situation in which the Weightlifting Federation is somewhat confused at the moment

about the testing being carried out, bearing in mind that it has been its practice in the past to notify State affiliates that drug testing will take place at a particular time and a particular place, up to three or four weeks in advance. (In Camera Evidence, p. 1182)

Role of Dr Kennedy

7.58 Until it passed to the Australian Sports Drug Agency in 1989, the responsibility for dope testing conducted by the Australian Weightlifting Federation lay with Dr Kennedy. The Committee notes that a number of allegations have been made about the role played by Dr Kennedy.

7.59 Mrs Gael Martin told the Committee that dope testing is:

very, very political, especially in weightlifting. You have a doctor who is part of the Hawthorn weightlifting club ... He is very close to the club and he has been for years, and he conducts all the testing. (Evidence, p. 559)

7.60 Mr Bill Stellios described how he had reached the conclusion that some of the lifters at the Hawthorn Club:

were taking something to improve their performance. Of course they were tested by David Kennedy - no result - and so I had an idea what was happening. They were their guys and their own club. (Evidence, p. 3051)

Mr Stellios also told the Committee that, under the instructions of Mr Paul Coffa, Dr David Kennedy:

would do everything you said. From my experience, the way the young kids were carrying on, there had to be something happening. (Evidence, p. 3050)

7.61 Dr Kennedy responded to allegations of 'fixed' testing carried out by the Australian Weightlifting Federation before the National Program on Drugs in Sport became involved:

all the tests that I have done have been genuine and you have to form your opinion about that ... every test that I have done, I have done under the control and guidelines of the IWF. I have always had a second person in attendance as well as the coach and the lifter and followed all the guidelines that have been outlined to me. (Evidence, p. 3383)

Notification of Testing

7.62 As discussed in some detail in the Interim Report, the integrity of any drug testing program requires that athletes be tested with as little notice as possible. This is because the clearance times for different anabolic steroids are fairly well known. If an athlete knows when a test is going to take place it is a simple matter to stop taking drugs in sufficient time to ensure a negative sample for those drugs on the day of the test. For this reason it was a matter of concern to the Committee that allegations were made that at least some weightlifters might have been told in advance when a test was to take place. For example Mr Glenn Jones told the Committee that:

the testing in Olympic lifting was seen by those outside to be a farce with lifters being given ample notice to quit usage in time to rid their system of residue before testing. (Evidence, p. 719)

7.63 A specific example of notification was alleged by Mr Michael Brittain. He told the Committee that in 1982 he started taking drugs 'for a course preceding or for the duration of two competitions'. The first of these was the 1982 Victorian Junior titles and the second, four to five weeks later, was the Nationals. (Evidence, p. 3155) Mr Brittain informed the Committee:

The point I want to make about the State junior event, apart from the other event, is that that was the first event that was openly nominated, that I know of, at that time to be a tested event. All the competitors in the 1982 Victoria juniors had to produce a urine sample and Paul advised me not to. He said, 'Do not lift in the event and you will not have to produce a sample'. So I did not

compete in that event. I did not fill out any entry form, and I did not lift. (Evidence, p. 3156)

7.64 Apparently Mr Coffa's view was that the National Junior event was more important than the Victorian Juniors and that Mr Brittain should keep up his 'training and drug cycle' for the Nationals. The information that everybody would be tested was given 'probably two to three weeks before the competition' and was verbal. (Evidence, p. 3157)

7.65 Mr Bill Stellios also claimed that weightlifters 'knew at times that there were going to be certain tests done at certain events'. (Evidence, p. 3050)

7.66 The Committee is aware of a number of occasions when a formal written notification that testing was to take place was given. Figure 7.1 shows a memo to 'Executive Members, Club Secretaries, AWF, AOF, ASC' from Dr David Kennedy. Dated 18 July 1988 it states:

To all competitors who wish to enter this year's Buffalo Sports State Senior Championships to be held August 13th and 14th at the Hawthorn Recreation Centre. Please note that there will be tests performed for doping control under the guidelines of the International Weightlifting Federation and the Australian Weightlifting Federation.
(Evidence, p. 3159)

Whatever its intention, the effect of this memo was to give almost one month's notice that testing was to take place. This was ample time to stop taking most drugs in order to test negative at the event.

7.67 Dr Kennedy emphasised to the Committee that he was trying:

to inform people that there would be testing procedures at the championship. It was not meant to inform them to go off the drugs.
(Evidence, p. 3370)

FIGURE 7.1



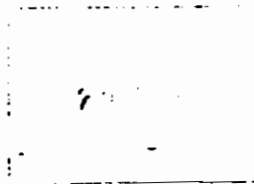
VICTORIAN WEIGHTLIFTING ASSOCIATION INC.

INTERNAL MEMO

To:	Exec. Members, Club Secretaries, A.W.F., A.O.F., A.S.C.
From:	Dr. David Kennedy, Australian Weightlifting Federation.
Subject:	Doping Control for Competitors at the Victorian Senior Championships. Date: 18.7.88

To all competitors who wish to enter this years Buffalo Sports State Senior Championships to be held August 13th and 14th 1988 at the Hawthorn Recreation Centre, Please note that there will be tests performed for doping control under the guidelines of the International Weightlifting Federation and the Australian Weightlifting Federation.

Dr. David Kennedy
Chairman A.W.F. and Oceania Medical Committee.
Member I.W.F. Medical Committee.



He explained that the Federation 'felt some difficulties legally in relation to notifying athletes about testing and when testings are being performed'. (Evidence, p. 3369) He said that while athletes at Hawthorn and the Australian Institute of Sport might be aware of testing procedures and what was going to happen, 'there were a lot of lifters who were totally unaware of the situation, particularly at national level'. (Evidence, p. 3369)

7.68 Mr Brittain told the Committee that while he had not seen a memo similar to the one in Figure 7.1 prior to the 1982 Victorian Juniors, he had seen similar documents concerning other competitions during 1987. (Evidence, p. 3160) Mr Robert Kabbas said that he had not competed since 1986 and had not seen such a memo before. (Evidence, p. 3160)

7.69 Figures 7.2 and 7.3 provide additional examples of the prior notification of drug testing. Figure 7.2, dated 31 March 1988, warns all 'State Officials, Coaches, and Weightlifters' that dope tests will be held at the National Junior Championships on 23 April 1988, while Figure 7.3 gives prior notification that any athlete who reaches the Olympic Trials qualifying standard will be tested.

7.70 Mr Kayser, Secretary of the AWF, and a barrister, explained that there was no legal power to force a person to supply a sample of urine without the prior notification issued by Dr Kennedy. (Evidence, p. 3371) Such notice had not been necessary in the case of the 1987 Nationals because that competition was under the IWF rules. All members of the AWF are subject to the AWF Constitution which incorporates the provision that all AWF members will abide by all rules, regulations and rulings of the IWF. (Evidence, p. 3380)

7.71 Mr Kayser explained that the memo in Figure 7.1 was sent out in relation to a Victorian level competition which was therefore not under the auspices of the IWF. It was organised by the Victorian Weightlifting Association and did not therefore



Australian Weightlifting Federation Inc.

INTERNAL MEMO

To: Executive Members / State Secretaries / A.O.F. / A.C.G.A. / A.S.	
From: Dr. David Kennedy : Australian Weightlifting Federation	
Subject: Doping Control	Date: 31.3.88

Attention to all State Officials, Coaches, and Weightlifters.
At the forthcoming National Junior Championships on Saturday,
23rd April, 1988 at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra
there will be tests performed for doping control under guidelines
of the International Weightlifting Federation and Australian
Weightlifting Federation.

David Kennedy. M.B.B.S. Dip Anat. (ASANZ) F.A.S.M.F.
Chairman A.W.F. and Oceania Medical Committee.
Member I.W.F. Medical Committee.





Australian Weightlifting Federation Inc.

INTERNAL MEMO

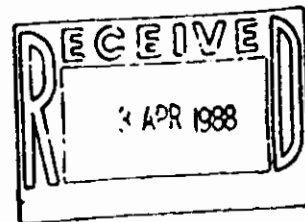
To: STATE SECRETARIES, - A.O.F., -A.C.G.A., A.I.S., F.S.C.	
From: SAM COFFA PRESIDENT	
Subject: DOPING CONTROL	Date 11,4,1988

Following a request from the New South Wales Weightlifting Association, the Australian Weightlifting Federation Doping Commission has determined to test any athlete throughout Australia who reaches the Olympic Trials qualifying standard.

Doctor David Kennedy will perform tests for doping agents in accordance with the International Weightlifting Federation's policy on Doping Control.

Could you please inform coaches and weightlifters involved as to this decision of the A.W.F. doping commission.

Sam Coffa
PRESIDENT



come under the rules of the IWF. (Evidence, pp. 3381-2) Dr David Kennedy supported that view and clarified it. Dr Kennedy advised:

The memo says, 'The testing will be done under the guidelines of the International Weightlifting Federation'. In other words, it was not under the auspices, it was a test that we decided to do at a Victorian level. To answer your question, it was not under the auspices and therefore not under the rules in terms of the governing body of the IWF. (Evidence, p. 3382)

7.72 The Committee is unable to accept the testimony of both Mr Kayser and Dr Kennedy on this matter. First, with regard to Dr Kennedy's argument that he issued notice of testing because the competition was at State level and not under the 'auspices' of the IWF, the Committee notes that Dr Kennedy issued similar memos for National championships. His memo of 31 March 1988 at Figure 7.2 is an example; the memo allowed 23 days clearance time warning for any weightlifters who were using oral and water-based injectable anabolic steroids. Whether State championships are conducted under IWF 'auspices' or not, Dr Kennedy committed the same indiscretion with regard to advance warning of drug testing - he in effect provided adequate clearance time for most performance enhancing drugs including water-based injectable steroids.

7.73 Second, however, the question whether State weightlifting championships are conducted under IWF 'auspices' is a most relevant matter. Both Dr Kennedy and Mr Kayser claimed in evidence before the Committee on 16 November 1989 that it was not the case that State championships were conducted under IWF 'auspices'. Mr Kayser's evidence, however, is directly contradicted by a letter that he wrote on 5 February 1988. That letter was written to solicitors acting on behalf of Mr Michael Brittain who entered, but failed to compete, in the 1987 National Championships. Mr Brittain did not attend a subsequent drug test as requested and his failure to do so was deemed a positive result under IWF Rules. Mr Brittain was banned from participating

in any weightlifting competition in Australia. Mr Kayser's letter of 5 February 1988 noted:

It is surprising that you suggest that the International Weightlifting Federation drug testing rules do not apply to capitated members of the Australian Weightlifting Federation. (Letter from Boris Kayser to Messrs Vandenberg, Reid, Pappas and MacDonald, 5 February 1988)

If this view is correct, then, as capitated members of the AWF, weightlifters competing in State championships are competing under the 'auspices' of the IWF and are properly liable for drug testing. (If that is not the case, Mr Brittain along with three other weightlifters ought not to have been banned.) Mr Kayser's evidence before the Committee is contradicted by his own letter.

7.74 Importantly, Mr Kayser revealed in his evidence that he was aware of the deficiencies in the argument that was being put both by himself and Dr Kennedy. Mr Kayser was asked by the Chairman:

Your legal interpretation ... was basically that you were not sure that you could do anything unless the athletes were advised that testing would take place before the event. Have I got that right?

Mr Kayser responded:

That is right. (Evidence, p. 3374)

Yet, subsequently, Mr Kayser seemed to want to qualify that assurance. He stated:

... all members of the AWF are subject to the AWF Constitution which incorporates the provision that all AWF members will abide by all rules, regulations and rulings of the IWF. This action was taken under the IWF rules ... the letters calling on people to attend for dope testing. We called on them under the IWF rules with Dr Kennedy acting under his powers as IWF Oceania doctor. (Evidence, p. 3380)

7.75 Further, Dr Kennedy subsequently presented a view that contradicted his earlier advice that he would have no authority to conduct drug tests except at National championships where he could employ his IWF status. Dr Kennedy was asked about the authority under which he tested Mr Satry Ma following trials for selection in the Australian team for the World Junior Championships. This test was a random test of lifters and it was not a test at a competition. Significantly, Dr Kennedy stated that the tests were conducted under the authority of the Australian Weightlifting Federation. (Evidence, p. 3392) When asked what authority he had to conduct such a (random out-of-competition) test instigated by the AWF, Dr Kennedy responded:

I can do tests at any time under the authority of the IWF, but I did not contact the IWF about this test. It was decided by the Australian Weightlifting Federation.
(Evidence, p. 3392)

The Committee notes that if Dr Kennedy had authority to test Mr Satry Ma in the way that he did in May 1987, then he had authority to test at the Victorian State Championships in July 1988. That is, Dr Kennedy had no reason to accept any advice to the contrary, and no reason to issue the memo reproduced as Figure 7.1.

7.76 In summary, the Committee notes:

- . that Mr Kayser and Dr Kennedy were not fully consistent in their assurances on this point;
- . that the evidence of both Mr Kayser and Dr Kennedy was vacillating and was not fully consistent; and
- . that Mr Kayser and Dr Kennedy may have knowingly misled the Committee.

'Mickey Mouse' Testing

7.77 For the 1987 Moomba International Championship, Mr Brittain alleged not only that he was notified in advance that testing was going to take place, but also that he had been told that he need not worry about the testing because it would be 'Mickey Mouse'. He said that:

Prior to the 1987 Moomba international I had information that testing was going to take place. I am pretty sure that I got a brochure about it ... I was using different sorts of banned substances at the time. I rang Paul Coffa personally ... I said, 'Paul what is going on? There are two weeks to go', and whatever. 'Am I going to lift or shall I pull out, or what shall I do?'. At that time we were on fairly good speaking terms, and we still have been up until today. He said ... that, 'Testing is Mickey Mouse it is Disneyland. It is Mickey Mouse testing, there is no problem, you can lift'. To the best of my knowledge David Kennedy was administering that testing ... I was using banned substances and I was not tested. (Evidence, p. 3175)

7.78 The Interim Report described in some detail the case of an athlete who competed at the 1987 Moomba International weightlifting competition while on a heavy course of oral and injectable steroids, was tested, and found to be negative. (Interim Report, pp. 294-6) (The Committee noted that the samples concerned were analysed by the Brisbane drug testing laboratory which had recently lost its IOC accreditation.) The evidence presented by Mr Brittain suggests that the sample collection and security at the competition could have been compromised.

7.79 Dr Kennedy told the Committee that, so far as he was concerned, this particular test 'was done with the utmost integrity, like all the tests that I have done'. (Evidence, pp. 3427-8) He suggested various possible explanations for the result: that the athlete had not been on drugs but had been given placebos, that the athlete had been given blocking agents or diuretics, or that the laboratory had just missed the drugs. The Committee has no doubt that the athlete concerned was taking the

drugs he supposed himself to be taking. The only explanations for the drug test results are that the laboratory made a mistake or that the testing procedures were compromised. The Committee notes that the lifter was told in advance of the competition by his coach (Mr Lyn Jones) that he need have no fear about the test result. As it is unlikely that Mr Jones could predict the laboratory would make a mistake, one explanation would be that he, like Mr Brittain, had been informed in advance that the testing would be fixed.

7.80 Mr Paul Coffa's response to Mr Brittain's allegations was to say that he had had very little to do with Mr Brittain since Mr Brittain left the Hawthorn Club and that:

In particular, in 1987 I did not speak to him or discuss with him any testing procedures and certainly I have never spoken to him about Mickey Mouse testings, because that is a new word to me. They just simply do not exist. (Evidence, p. 3357)

Mr Brittain claimed that while he was told by Mr Paul Coffa that the 1987 Moomba testing would be 'Mickey Mouse' he was also told that 'The 1988 Moomba will be a different story'. (Evidence, p. 3176) According to Mr Brittain:

The same kind of situation pre-empted the 1987 Victorian seniors in August. I think that by that time I had almost assumed the fact that testing would be Mickey Mouse. (Evidence, p. 3176)

He again took 'banned substances, lifted, won fairly convincingly and was aware of no sample being taken'. (Evidence, p. 3176)

The 1987 Nationals

7.81 The 1987 Nationals competition was held in November 1987 and Mr Brittain continued to assume that the testing would be 'Mickey Mouse'. He was still taking drugs during training, five or six weeks before the competition, 'maybe even longer'. Mr Robert Kabbas called him from Sydney to say that everyone in the

Nationals was to be tested. (Evidence, p. 3177) Mr Kabbas told the Committee that:

I had informed [Mr Brittain] six weeks before the 1987 nationals that everybody was going to be tested. It was not random, it was a blanket test of everybody. (Evidence, p. 3177)

Mr Kabbas had retired from lifting some 18 months before but had been told about the tests by a friend in Sydney who had 'heard it from an official in Sydney'. (Evidence, p. 3177)

7.82 This six weeks (unofficial) notice given to Mr Kabbas, and through him to Mr Brittain, contrasts with Mr Sam Coffa's account of his decision to carry out the testing. Mr Sam Coffa described how he 'took the unilateral decision in 1987 to drop a bombshell and test everybody during the national championships'. (Evidence, p. 3377) On making this decision he first instructed Dr Kennedy to carry out the tests and only then sought the endorsement of the executive board (which included his brother, the Hawthorn coach Mr Paul Coffa). According to Dr Kennedy, he was instructed by Mr Sam Coffa 'about 10 days before the competition', and the instruction caught him by surprise. (Evidence, p. 3378)

7.83 Mr Sam Coffa emphasised that he did not tell anyone about his decision. (Evidence, p. 3377, 3378 and 3379) He said that while he could not remember how long in advance of the competition he had made this decision, 'It would have been about 10 days'. (Evidence, p. 3379) Dr Kennedy, who had originally suggested the 10 days, then commented:

I think it was a bit longer than that. I sent out the letter; I have not got the exact date with me. (Evidence, p. 3379)

Mr Sam Coffa then implied that the decision was made after the closing date for receipt of entry forms, which was 9 November, the competition starting on 28 November. The decision was also made that anyone who pulled out of the competition after 9 November would still be subject to testing. (Evidence, p. 3379) A

letter received by Mr Steve Haynes, then Co-ordinator of the National Program on Drugs and Sport, was dated 10 November 1987. In it Dr Kennedy referred 'to our recent telephone conversation regarding the forthcoming National Senior Weightlifting Championships'.

7.84 Mr Sam Coffa told the Committee that he:

even went as far as asking who was qualified to compete in the A grade title and had not entered and for what reason, so that I would have a clear mind that no-one was omitted. (Evidence, p. 3379)

This claim is of relevance given the allegations made concerning Mr Phillip Cristou, discussed in the next Section. (Evidence, pp. 559-60)

7.85 Mr Brittain continued his account by describing how:

Two weeks prior to the event - and I think the two weeks is a fairly crucial period of time, too, because that is inside the period in which you can test safely on any drug really, almost any drug, but mostly stronger drugs anyway that you would use for training purposes for a serious event - I received that brochure, bulletin, a memo, saying that 'All competitors will be tested, will be advised to give urine samples on that day of the event. Any lifters who withdrew from the event or fail to lift or fail to total or any other aspects which preclude them from competing will also be required to produce a urine sample'. (Evidence, p. 3178)

Even this official notice of testing which Mr Brittain received gave longer notice than 10 days: Mr Sam Coffa had claimed that he only determined ten days prior to the competition that testing would be held. Figure 7.4, which is the circular advising competitors of the tests, is dated 10 November, eighteen days prior to the competition.

7.86 Following receipt of this official notice Mr Brittain contacted Mr Paul Coffa, and received confirmation of the advice



Australian Weightlifting Federation Inc.

Affiliated with Commonwealth and International Weightlifting Federations. Member of Australian Olympic Federation
Australian Commonwealth Games Association Oceania Federation

President: Dr. Gordon 15 Sturt St. Canberra ACT 2600 02 626 1011 or 02 626 1014	Executive Director: Bruce Walsh 1 Riverside Drive, Concord NSW 2137 02 937 2775 or 02 937 2866	Secretary: Dr. Gordon PO Box 11, Concord NSW 2137 02 937 4113 or 02 937 4277	Executive Director: Bruce Walsh 1 Riverside Drive, Concord NSW 2137 02 937 2775	Executive Director: Bruce Walsh 1 Riverside Drive, Concord NSW 2137 02 937 2775
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Executive Director Bruce Walsh (02) 73 2457 27 Warbrick Street, Concord, N.S.W. 2137

Please address all correspondence to: A.W.F., 27 Warbrick Street, Concord, NSW 2137
10.11.87

Telex AA27749 EXIMP

CIRCULAR.

State Presidents, State Secretaries and to all competitors who have entered
in this years National Senior Championships in Melbourne on November 28-29.

PLEASE NOTE.

By now you have received a letter from myself advising your State Association of the decision I have taken under the direction of the International Weightlifting Federation and the Australian Weightlifting Federation regarding random tests for doping agents during the preparation period of major events and also tests taken at the time of National and Regional competitions.

Since then, I have approached the Australian Sports Commission Co-ordinator for National Programme on Drugs in Sport for assistance, and it has been decided by the Australian Weightlifting Federation Executive that at the forthcoming National Senior Championships in Melbourne every competitor who has entered officially will be tested for doping agents.

The testing at the National Championships will be performed by myself and an Official of the Australian Sports Commission.

Any lifter who withdraws from these Championships will be tested also.

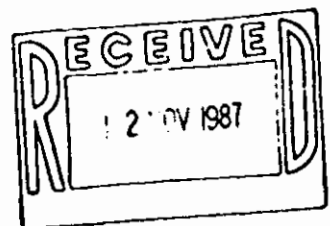
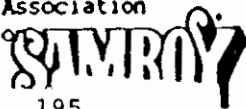
I again stress as stated in my previous letter to the State Associations, that any lifter capitated with the Australian Weightlifting Federation who refuses to undergo a test for doping agents is treated as having been found positive on testing and will be disciplined in accordance with International Weightlifting Federation regulations.

I trust that you support the efforts of the A.W.F. in conjunction with the I.W.F. in eradicating the use of drugs in the Sport of Weightlifting.

Yours sincerely

David Kennedy. M.B.B.S. Dip Anat. (ASANZ) F.A.S.M.F.
Chairman A.W.F. and Oceania Medical Committee.
Member I.W.F. Medical Committee.

C.C.
A.W.F. Executive Members
Australian Sports Commission
Australian Institute of Sport
Australian Olympic Federation
Australian Commonwealth Games Association
Oceania Weightlifting Federation



already provided by Robert Kabbas. Mr Paul Coffa confirmed: 'Well, there is testing mate, I told you about that earlier in the year. I told you it was eventually going to get serious and this is it'. (Evidence, p. 3178) Mr Brittain said that he then told Mr Paul Coffa that the drug he (Mr Brittain) was using had too long a clearance time for him to be able to undergo testing. According to Mr Brittain, Mr Paul Coffa then:

looked a bit crestfallen but he said, 'Look, we will do what we can. Do not show up to the event, do not see anybody when they are in town, do not have any communication with any lifters from interstate or anywhere. If anyone gets wind that you are in town they will be after you to test you and want you to provide a sample.' He went on to say 'What we will do is we will say you have retired and you have not had any involvement for several months'. (Evidence, p. 3179)

Mr Brittain wrote to the Committee to explain further Mr Paul Coffa's role in this incident:

I did not personally receive a despatch concerning testing at the aforementioned date and time due to the fact that I was not at my home address at any time for three weeks directly succeeding the event to be tested. Hoping to exploit what Mr P. Coffa and I had considered to be a potential 'loop-hole' in the written documentation, I had arranged to stay with friends on a farm near Sale (Victoria) where I remained till just before Xmas. Having not lifted, not giving a sample, and not being available to be asked for one (and having to refuse, thereby automatically facing a 'deemed positive' result), we had felt we (Coffa was then abetting my attempt to avoid detection) would have an optimum situation to avoid a test. (Letter to Committee Chairman, 18 February 1990)

7.87 As discussed in the next section, Mr Brittain was eventually 'deemed positive' and suspended for failing to test. He told the Committee that he thought that:

what was really happening was that the pressure to test and the other aspects of that testing were out of the hands of people like

Paul Coffa and therefore he could not advise me and did not know himself perhaps. (Evidence, p. 3182)

Mr Sam Coffa had made a particular point of telling the Committee that he had not told his brother Paul of the decision to test. (Evidence, pp. 3377-8)

7.88 The tests at the 1987 Nationals were the first to have been carried out independently, by the National Program on Drugs in Sports. (Evidence, p. 3383) On being instructed by Mr Sam Coffa to conduct the tests, Dr Kennedy had contacted Mr Steve Haynes and the testing was able to be done:

through the Australian Sport Commission ... with the assistance of nominated members from the Australian Olympic Federation, namely, Dr Zimmerman on the Saturday and Dr Peter Harcourt on the Sunday ... Dr Brian Corrigan ... was in attendance all day on Saturday. (Evidence, p. 3378)

According to Dr Kennedy, the independence of the tests was not generally known:

No-one knew who was doing the tests, so at the time that they arrived no-one knew that it was being done in conjunction with the Australian Sport Commission. I do not think I made that public. I am not sure, ... I may have but I am not sure about that. (Evidence, p. 3383)

Dr Kennedy was incorrect in suggesting that he had not announced the testing was to be carried out by the Australian Sports Commission. This is clearly shown by Figure 7.4, a circular sent to competitors advising that the testing would be carried out by an official of the Commission, together with Dr Kennedy.

7.89 In the event, 32 tests were carried out of all the lifters who completed on the two days, and there were 32 negatives. (Evidence, p. 3378) However, there appear to have been 36 entries for the competition (Evidence, p. 3383) even though Dr Kennedy's letter to Mr Haynes dated 10 November (that is, after the closing date for entries) stated that the final number of

entries was 34. (Figure 7.5) Dr Kennedy pointed out that while four entrants decided not to compete, 'That does not mean they were positive'. (Evidence, p. 3384) Subsequent to the competition these four athletes declined to undergo further testing. Two of these athletes told Dr Kennedy that they had retired through injury between the period of entering and the period of competition. However, under the rules of the International Olympic Committee and the International Weightlifting Federation, a refusal to take a test has the same penalty as a positive result. (Evidence, p. 3384)

7.90 The four athletes who failed to test were Messrs Michael Brittain, Wayne Scarffe, George Stylianou and Phillip Kerr. Dr Kennedy advised that the last two lifters have retired 'and are showing indications that they are not returning to lifting'. (Evidence, p. 3403) As discussed in the next Chapter, Mr Scarffe (who was also a powerlifter) subsequently tested positive for anabolic steroids at the August 1988 National Powerlifting Championships and then tested positive for the same drugs at the November 1988 World Championships.

Response to Positive Tests

Introduction

7.91 The Australian Weightlifting Federation has expressed pride in its drug testing record. It has also confirmed its 'strong and determined policy of opposition to doping with respect to the members of its Federation'. (Evidence, p. 3338) In its submission to the Committee dated 27 July 1988 the Federation noted that:

information provided by the Australian Sports Commission reveals that the sport of weightlifting in the period between July 1987 and April 1988 had performed at least five times the number of tests on athletes compared with any other individual sport under the auspices of the Australian Sports Commission. The total number of tests for doping control performed by the Australian Weightlifting

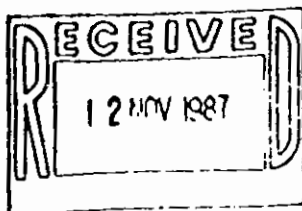
Strey, Kennedy & Associates,
135 Collins Street,
MELBOURNE

G.P.O. Box 1130 J,
DX 432

FIGURE 7.5

10th November, 1987

Mr. S. Haines,
National Programme on Drugs and Sport
Co-ordinator,
P.O. Box 76,
BELCONNEN A.C.T. 2610



Dear Sirs,

Further to our recent telephone conversation regarding the forthcoming National Senior Weightlifting Championships in Melbourne on the 28th and 29th November, 1987, I am writing to you for assistance from the Australian Sports Commission and their drug programme to enable the Australian Weightlifting Federation to embark on an ambitious programme to eradicate the use of doping agents in the sport of weightlifting.

To this end, the Australian Weightlifting Federation Executive has decided to test all the competitors at the forthcoming National Senior Weightlifting Championships. The final number of entries for this championship is thirty-four and it is, therefore, imperative that the Australian Weightlifting Federation receive assistance from the Australian Sports Commission, both financially, and with man-power, to enable us to engage in such a programme of testing over the two days of the championship.

I look forward to your continuing support in the forthcoming programmes that have been instigated by the Australian Weightlifting Federation, including random testing for doping agents of all lifters who are capitated members of the Australian Weightlifting Federation as well as saturation testing for doping agents at major national and regional championships.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID KAY KENNEDY, M.B. B.S. DIP. ANAT.
(A.S.A.N.Z.) F.A.S.M.F.

Federation was more than the total number of tests performed by all other sports federations combined under the auspices of the Australian Sports Commission. (Evidence, p. 3337)

However, on three occasions known to the Committee, adequate notice was provided to weightlifters to allow them sufficient clearance time for banned drugs. Moreover, the previous section discussed the four withdrawals from the 1987 Nationals, one of which was certainly because the athlete concerned (Mr Brittain) knew he would test positive, and all of which were subject to the same disciplinary procedures that would have been applied had they tested positive. That is, four Australian weightlifters have been 'deemed positive' under IWF Rules.

Mr Satry Ma

7.92 Mr Paul Coffa told the Committee that there had been no 'positive results on an international platform by Australian weightlifters and on a national platform - none of them'. (Evidence, p. 3388) Contrary to Mr Coffa's assertion, there has been a positive drug test in Australian weightlifting in the sense that a banned substance was actually found in the athlete's urine. This was in May 1987 when the Australian Weightlifting Federation had urine samples from 12 weightlifters tested by the Royal Brisbane Hospital Sport Drug Testing Laboratory. One of those samples tested positive for an anabolic steroid sold under the brand names Durabolin and Deca-Durabolin. (Evidence, p. 3390-1) The fact that this positive test occurred was not widely known in the Australian weightlifting community.

7.93 Mr Lyn Jones, former head coach of weightlifting at the Australian Institute of Sport, may have been aware of this matter. Nevertheless, Mr Jones told the Committee that:

there has never, I am sure you are aware of this, been a positive weightlifter in any of our testing programs in Australia. (Evidence, p. 820)

In making these kinds of statements, some AWF officials may have been deliberately misleading the Committee. As this could put them in contempt of Parliament, it is a matter that the Committee considers should be referred to the Privileges Committee. The Committee had an interest in this incident because the deterrence value of a testing program requires that positive results be widely publicised, and that appropriate penalties be seen to be applied to those who test positive.

7.94 Mr Sam Coffa explained that the lifter concerned was a '17 year old Cambodian boy', Satry Ma. Mr Coffa claimed that Satry Ma spoke very little English. Even if true, this is of limited relevance in the matter. Mr R.J. Ellicott, who was the responsible Minister when the AIS was established has confirmed that weightlifting was included as one of the original AIS sports because:

Weightlifting ... had a fairly high concentration of participants with an ethnic background. (Letter to Committee Chairman, 9 April 1989)

7.95 Mr Ma had apparently been given an injection by an unknown doctor, for a shoulder injury. Even before the positive notification had been received, Mr Ma had withdrawn from the team because of his continuing injury. In considering this case those members of the AWF executive involved in making a decision took into account the fact that Mr Ma 'had received some injections and could not tell us what the heck they were' and decided not to ban him for two years (as required by AWF guidelines) but instead to suggest to him that:

it would be far better if he did not compete internationally for at least 12 months. Anyway, he did not, and that is the story. (Evidence, p. 3394)

7.96 Mr Sam Coffa explained to the Committee that this was the first time the executive had ever been faced with such a problem and that 'the thing foremost in our minds was the fact that we were dealing with a young boy'. (Evidence, p. 3398) The

Committee was told by Mr Coffa that no attempt was made either to find out whether the injections received by Mr Ma were of anabolic steroids, or to talk to his coach. (Evidence, p. 3399) Dr Kennedy claimed before the Committee that 'you also have to understand that not every person who is tested positive gets suspended'. (Evidence, p. 3401)

7.97 Nevertheless, the Executive Director of the AWF, Mr Bruce Walsh spoke to Mr Ma's coach. He advised that Mr Ma's coach at the time:

was Jan Czapla ... I questioned Czapla about the matter and he strenuously denied that he knew anything about it, other than the fact that the boy had been taken for an injection in his shoulder ... I was told, on legal advice, that nothing could be done about Czapla. (Evidence, p. 3145)

Figure 7.6 shows Mr Ma and his coach Mr Czapla.

7.98 As was noted at para. 7.48, the Committee was provided with a prescription for the anabolic steroid Anapolan; see Figure 7.7. Mr Czapla's name is on this prescription obtained by Mr Walsh from Bova's pharmacy. (Evidence, pp. 3073; 3093-4) The Committee has thus received corroborating evidence that Mr Czapla has obtained anabolic steroid prescriptions. The Committee believes that, by this means, Mr Czapla may have provided Mr Ma with Deca-Durabolin. Dr Witkowski, Mr Czapla's doctor, has advised that in 1987 he provided Mr Czapla with prescriptions for Deca-Durabolin, but did not administer the drug. (Letter to Committee Secretary, 6 March 1990) The Committee considers it likely that Mr Czapla procured the anabolic steroid for Mr Ma who was subsequently found positive for that drug. Dr Witkowski's patient cards for Mr Czapla are reproduced at Figure 7.8. Dr Witkowski confirmed:

As per our conversation, suffice it to say, it is quite possible that he had other prescriptions from me for steroids (under the guise of impotence). (Letter to Committee Secretary, 6 March 1990; emphasis in original)

FIGURE 7.6



Sanyu Ma trains under the eye of Jan Czajla at the State Sports Centre: 'Australia is a wonderful place for weightlifting'.
(Photograph Courtesy Peter Solness)

FIGURE 7.7

Dr. R. WITKOWSKI
M.B., B.S. (Syd. Ont.)

Tel.: 646 2228
A.H.: 646 2228

30 C MPBELL ST., BERALA
(Cnr MPBELL ST. & BURKE AVE.)

No. 108872

368561

BOVA CONTRACT

108873

Pharmaceutical Benefits Entitlement Number.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CONCESSIONAL BENEFICIARY OR DEPENDANTS PENSIONER OR DEPENDANTS OR ENTITLEMENT CARD HOLDER

(CROSS RELEVANT BOX)

PATIENT'S NAME Jan CZAPLA

ADDRESS 5 Casino Ave

DATE 19, 10, 87 Oregona

Anapron 50 tabs.
(50mg tabs)
11/80
(100)

Zadine tabs 5/80
(50 x 2 ppts)

Aspirin tabs 5/80
(50 x 2 ppts)
[Signature]

DOCTOR'S SIGNATURE _____
I certify that I have received this medication and the information relating to any entitlement to free or concessional pharmaceutical benefits is not false or misleading.

Date of Supply _____ Patient's or Agent's Signature _____

N.H.S. _____ Agent's Address _____

JAN CRADLA (2)

- 9/10/86. Severe back pain - temp, etc. Erythrocin. cert 1/52.
- 16/12/86. Continuation but improved. cert 15/12-21/11.
Script Zadine
- 15/1/87 yesterday (end of week) → jumped off truck →
inversion injury @ ankle & lumbar
paravertebral spasm muscles.
- 21/8/87 Felders walking well. Clin improved. further 1/52 above
felders, REST, cert 1/52
- 3/3/87 discussion re amable w/ impotence.
will decide? mg? mg + tabs.
- 16/3/87 URTI → throat ing. chest v. capros, gals.
cert 1/52
- 9/4/87 on & off L5 pain / discomfort. SE. Somat-5
discomfort & mild @ sciatica. for Indocid
> xray Script Zadine, 512 mg. cert 1/52
- 21/4/87 Giving trouble 152. Continue above. 1/52 cert.

- 26/4/87 WC. During past week 152. Xray? PT.
- 30/4/87 WC Xray → minor degen. changes but disc spaces
perfect. (recurve to ⊕) (cert till end of)
Script Indocid. If not 100%
rest wk.
- 4/5/87 WC 152. Discussed. TO Essay for PT. cert 1/52.
- 18/5/87 WC Has had PT x6 → mobil. / interferential, S1 & X2
→ another 1/52 (X3). cert 1/52.
- 21/5/87 WC. URTI → throat ing. ++. Fender glands. chest →
few noises → capros, Brandeom, etc.
- 1/6/87 WC Back almost 100% but doesn't attend PT.
Able to get 20 times. still pulling to ⊕ side
Able to get down shin to knee.
still L5-S1 signs L5-S1. Interferential help.
- 15/6/87 WC. 152. Ref. J.M. NIELD (Kardwick). Reg. ECG for
reassurance even though CVS Clin v. cert 1/52
- 25/6/87 WC. Still not seen Nield. cert. further 1/52
(seeing ca dr today). Send creatinine to Nield.

C2A2A JAN

(3)

30/6/87. No more "heartburn" (has put himself on bland diet)
 (S/S CS dr. → ref. to orthop. rth. Sydney).
 Cytosol 1000 x 5 ranges
 Trial Becarabulin 5mg/ml x 1 ml.

10/7/87. Further cert 1/2. cyt 1000 given.
 Discussion re impotence,.....

24 JUL 1987 Largely 150. S/S dr. again & results
 Await report Samster. Cert further 1/2
 Rpt viz cyt. 1000 & 2-Dx1. 22/7-24/8

21 AUG 1987 WC: Rept. want sick leave till end Sept (24/8-28/9)
 Largely 150. Script Laxatan buy.

29/9/87 WC: "Saw" co no. on 28/9/87 but no records - no exam!
 Extr cert 28/9-28/10.

29/10/87 WC: Largely 150. Extr. cert. 28/10-14/1/88.
 Script Zadine, Doxycort for pain
 Anagrel 50 (2x2) for impotence

13/1/88 WC Had CT scan → no definite demyelination pattern
 one for lumbar myelo. (K Cohen 6016555). Cert 14/1-14/1

25 FEB 1988 Jaw Ireland → myelogram due to nerve
 irritation? operation. Extr cert. 15/2-15/3.

15 MAR 1988 WC Still distressed. Extr. cert 15/3-15/5.

11 MAR 1988 WC Back 150 (URTI → PRK 500g). Extr cert 15/3-15/5.

8 JUL 1988 URTI. Pus at inj. Tendon glands, tracheitis,
 & febrile. For PRK 500 @, gages

16 AUG 1988 WC Ireland suggested op → refused. Cert 15/5-15/11
 Script Laxatan buy.

18 OCT 1988 WC Ireland → no op. if only 1/2 better → no
 myelogram at present.

12/11/88 WC Lost 5kg wt. Back better! Extr cert 15/11-15/12
 Script Laxatan

18 NOV 1988 WC (N/C) Lost cert. give
 7 DEC 1988 Discussion re impotence again! No
 further steroids → consider consult.
 Back 100% - finally.

5/1/90. Claims impotence not much improved & duration

7.99 In considering this May 1987 positive test, it should be noted that testing procedures would have required the Australian Weightlifting Federation to have had the second, B sample analysed by an accredited laboratory before taking any action, but there is no evidence that this was ever considered.

Lifters Failing to Test

Messrs Brittain, Scarffe, Stylianou, Kerr

7.100 The situation of the four people who failed to appear at the 1987 Nationals was dealt with more openly than the case of Mr Ma and the proper penalties were applied. The lifters concerned were temporarily suspended until February 1988, (Evidence, p. 3181) when the matter was discussed by Dr Kennedy at an International Weightlifting Federation meeting. At this meeting Dr Kennedy was told, 'Well, you set the penalty, the guidelines have been laid out'. (Evidence, p. 3396) As the lifters concerned were no longer members of the Federation and could not be suspended, they were advised that they were ineligible to apply for membership for two years. (Evidence, p. 3397) This complies with the IWF penalty regime. Mr Michael Brittain was later given a short 'remission for good behaviour'. (Evidence, p. 3403)

7.101 In fact Mr Brittain had earlier appealed against the suspension through his solicitor, Mr Jack Pappas, on the grounds that he had submitted his name as a potential competitor and that the letter advising that drug testing was to take place was not received until after his entry form had been submitted. (Letter from Mr John Pappas to Mr Boris Kayser, Honorary Secretary, Australian Weightlifting Federation Inc., 22 January 1988) In his response to this appeal Mr Kayser noted that:

6. As IWF Rules provide that a refusal or failure to submit to testing when properly required to do so is deemed to be a positive result, the AWF had no alternative but to prohibit Mr Brittain

from taking part in competition under our control pending the decision of the IWF.

7. You will note that no consideration has yet been given to Mr Brittain's membership of the AWF so that reference to the rules of Natural Justice is irrelevant at this time. (Letter from Mr Boris Kayser to Messrs Vandenberg, Reid, Pappas and MacDonald, 5 February 1989)

This correspondence serves to illustrate the need for appropriate appeal mechanisms as recommended in the Interim Report and at Chapter Two of this Report.

Mr Phillip Christou

7.102 While the Federation has acted in the case of four lifters, an allegation was made to the Committee that another lifter should also have received a ban for not competing. Mrs Gael Martin told the Committee that:

Another athlete ... Phillip Christou, and who is actually coached by someone at the Hawthorn Weightlifting Centre, did not compete either, and yet he did not get banned. (Evidence, p. 559-60)

7.103 In discussing his suspension Mr Brittain suggested that, 'There were approximately four other lifters in the same boat as me'. (Evidence, p. 3181) He told the Committee that he had spoken to Mr Rodney Kelly, the Australian Promotions and Equipment Officer who was looking after the entries for the 1987 national championships. Mr Kelly, on being asked in October, 'who had entered?', mentioned a number of names, including that of Mr Phillip Christou. Mr Brittain said he particularly remembered the name of Phillip Christou because he was in the same weight division and 'he was quite a comer in terms of results'. Mr Christou's name did not appear on the printed brochure handed out at the event. (Evidence, p. 3182) Mr Brittain commented that he thought that Mr Kelly meant:

that the guy had signed an entry form for the event and was intending to compete as I did

and therefore should have been eligible for testing as I was. (Evidence, p. 3183)

7.104 The Committee notes that Mr Brittain's conversation with Mr Kelly was in October, and entries did not close until 9 November. It also notes Mr Sam Coffa's statement:

I was the only person who selected ... I ascertained who was an entry. I got the file, I determined the names, I even went as far as asking who was qualified to compete in the A grade title and had not entered and for what reason, so that I could have a clear mind that no one was omitted. (Evidence, p. 3379)

7.105 Significantly, the Committee has received advice from Mr Michael Noonan, Mr Christou's coach, that:

Phillip Christou did not enter the November 1987 National Senior Championship. His Higher School Certificate examinations concluded just four days before this competition. Because of these he had not trained since appearing in an International tournament some eight weeks previous to the Championships. It would have been foolhardy in the extreme for me to have encouraged a youngster such as Phillip to risk injury by competing with this inadequate preparation. (Letter to Committee Secretary, 2 February 1990)

Mr Darren Walker

7.106 The Committee is aware of a more recent example of a weightlifter failing to present for a drug test. It concerns Mr Darren Walker, a lifter selected for targeted testing following information provided to the Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA). Mr Steve Haynes, Chief Executive of ASDA, received an anonymous call saying that at least two Hawthorn lifters were still 'on the beans' (Evidence, p. 2894) and that their names were Walker and McNamara. (Evidence, p. 2895) The caller was later identified as Mr Jason Roberts.

7.107 Mr Walker was required to attend a drug test at 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 14 November 1989. He was to be tested by Dr Peter Brukner for ASDA. Dr Brukner called Mr Sam Coffa at 10.00 am on

14 November and asked that the lifters (including Mr Walker) attend at 5.00 pm. The following is part of the text of a letter from Dr Peter Brukner to Mr Steve Haynes of ASDA, dated 22 November 1989:

Sam Coffa stated that the third lifter Darren Walker was not in Melbourne and that he had gone to Castlemaine to work. Sam stated that he had been to Darren's house and left a message for him and that he was expected back later in the week to train or certainly by the weekend as the club championships were being held. I arranged with Sam that he would contact me as soon as Darren appeared ... At the time of performing drug tests on Thursday at Hawthorn Recreation Centre, I noticed that Darren's name was on the list of entries for the club championships that Sunday.

As I had not heard from Sam Coffa by 10.00 am on Sunday, I rang the Hawthorn Recreation Centre where the championships were in progress and left a message for him to contact me. This he subsequently did at 12.30 pm and stated that Darren had not yet appeared and that he would ring me as soon as Darren appeared. I did not receive any further calls from Sam Coffa. I have not heard from him today (Monday). (Evidence, p. 4134)

Mr Walker was not subsequently tested until 25 November 1989, eleven days after the AWF was notified that he was required for testing. (Mr McNamara had tested negative on 16 November 1989.)

7.108 There are two major difficulties with this case. First, Mr Walker was not tested for eleven days after the AWF was notified - sufficient clearance time for oral and water-based injectable anabolic steroids. Second, Dr Brukner advised that Mr Walker was an entrant for the Hawthorn club championships on 19 November, but did not compete. This, then, is a case of a competitor failing to compete and being unavailable for testing within a credible period. There would seem to be little difference between this case and that involving Messrs Brittain, Scarffe, Stylianou and Kerr and yet those four lifters were suspended for two years.

7.109 The Committee investigated this matter closely, seeking the views of Mr Walker and Mr Sam Coffa. Mr Coffa advised that Mr Walker had gone to work at Castlemaine, having informed Mr Paul Coffa of that fact on Saturday 11 November 1989:

He told Paul Coffa that during the week away he would endeavour to do some training in Ballarat and would be back for the Club Championships. It was his intention to return on Friday or Saturday, November 17th, 18th, 1989. (Letter to Committee Secretary, 19 March 1990)

7.110 The Hawthorn Club Championships are of considerable importance to Club members and only extraordinary circumstances would be allowed to prevent Club members from competing. Mr Walker was also preparing for the Commonwealth Games Trials. Nevertheless, Mr Walker's response to the Committee asks the Committee to accept:

- . that he sought work in the country in the week prior to the Club Championships (preventing serious training that week);
- . that he did not provide his coach (Paul Coffa) with an address in Castlemaine for contact; and
- . that, while there was a telephone at the Castlemaine property he did not contact his coach to advise that fact and confirm that he would be present at the Club Championships on Sunday 19 November. (Letter to Committee Secretary, 17 March 1990)

7.111 Further, Mr Walker claimed that he was prevented from competing in the Club Championships because his car ran into a ditch at Castlemaine at 10.00 am on the day of their competition (Sunday 19 November). By contrast, the Castlemaine garage that repaired Mr Walker's car claimed that the car would have run off the road at about 1.00 pm. More importantly, Mr Walker called the garage on Sunday 19 November from the telephone at the Castlemaine property, yet neither Mr Coffa nor Mr Walker have claimed that Mr Walker attempted to telephone the Club or his coach on that day to advise that he would be unable to take part

in the Club Championships. Mr Sam Coffa in fact advised that he was present at the Hawthorn Club from 10.00 am until late on Sunday, and had rung the ASDA testing officer from the Club. (Letter to Hon Secretary/Treasurer ACGA, 11 December 1989)

7.112 Having considered closely letters from Mr Walker, Mr Sam Coffa and Mr Robert Tingay (who towed and repaired Mr Walker's car), the Committee considers it most unlikely that:

- . Mr Walker needed to leave Melbourne to find work;
- . Mr Walker would choose not to train seriously in the week prior to the Hawthorn Club Championships;
- . Mr Walker would not contact his coach, Mr Paul Coffa, from the telephone at the Castlemaine property during the week that he spent there;
- . Mr Walker would not call the Club when it was clear on Sunday 19 November that he could not return to Melbourne for the Club Championships; and that
- . Mr Walker would choose not to leave Castlemaine to compete at Hawthorn until about 10.00 am on the morning of the competition.

7.113 In summary, the Committee considers that Mr Darren Walker did not have a credible excuse for failing to be drug tested as required on 15, 16 or 17 November 1989. The Committee considers that Mr Walker should be 'deemed positive' and that the appropriate penalty should apply.

7.114 The Committee described this case to Mr Lyle Makosky, the Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Fitness, and Amateur Sport, of the Federal Government of Canada. Mr Makosky informed the Committee that in Canada:

Our rules are pretty clear that if an athlete who fails to co-operate, or fails to present, at the time required and at the time indicated, unless there is very significant, clear and compelling reasons why not - such as, death in the family or significant illness - that athlete is subject to the same immediate procedural step, including sanction

penalty, as if the athlete had tested positive. (Evidence, p. 4149)

7.115 The Committee believes that enforcement is essential if a random testing regime is to have its full deterrent effect. For this reason the Committee believes that the legislation setting up the Australian Sports Drug Commission should require all athletes eligible for testing to register an address for the receipt of notification that they are required to appear for testing; and that any athlete not appearing for testing within 48 hours of delivery of the notification to the registered address should be deemed to have tested positive. Further, despite the maximum time of 48 hours, the sample should be collected as soon as possible following notification that a test was required.

Mr Nick Voukelatos

7.116 Mr Voukelatos was a Gold medalist at the Brisbane Commonwealth Games in 1982 and a triallist for weightlifting in the 1984 Olympic Games. The Senior Medical Director of the 1984 Australian Olympic Team, Dr Ken Fitch, arranged for out-of-competition drug tests to be conducted in the lead-up to the 1984 Olympic Games. Only the high risk sports were targeted.

7.117 The tests were conducted on 1 June 1984, and Dr Fitch had nominated Mr Voukelatos among those to be tested. While Mr Voukelatos was weighed on that occasion, he was not drug tested; Dr Fitch advised:

Due to an error on the part of the Sydney testing team, another athlete was tested in place of Voukelatos when the tests were undertaken on 1st June. As soon as I became aware of this mistake (late June) I contacted the:

- (a) Secretary-General of the AOF, Mr J.L. Patching
- (b) Chef de Mission 1984 Olympic Team, Mr W.J. Hoffman
- (c) The Sydney Medical Testing Team

to rectify the error. As I required Voukelatos to undergo further medical examination because of unsatisfactory findings in his initial medical (including the fact that he was 10.7% above his competition weight), I requested that Voukelatos attend urgently for further medical evaluation.

Attempts were made to locate Voukelatos via a senior weightlifting official, Mr Sam Coffa. After some days, Mr Coffa rang me with the information that:

- (i) he had located Mr Voukelatos who would attend for further medical examination.
- (ii) Voukelatos had admitted to him that he had recently taken anabolic steroids but had now ceased. My recollection is that he took Dianabol 2.5 mg 4 tablets daily, and the source of the tablets was American weightlifters in Tahiti where he competed in May 1984. (Letter to Committee Secretary, 23 January 1990)

7.118 Dr Brian Corrigan, Head of the Department of Rheumatology at Concord Hospital confirmed that Mr Voukelatos was taking anabolic steroids in 1984:

I had not met Voukelatos until 1988 and was talking to him about this incident ... He did say however at this time that he had been taking some steroids before the testing but said that he had only been taking them for a short time. (Letter to Chairman, 24 January 1990)

7.119 On Dr Fitch's recollection, then, Mr Voukelatos admitted to Mr Sam Coffa that he was taking anabolic steroids in the period leading to the 1984 Olympic Games and he failed to appear for a targeted drug test in June 1984. In total, the Committee has received written evidence from five sources that Mr Voukelatos took anabolic steroids in 1984; two of those sources advise that Mr Sam Coffa was aware of that fact. Mr Bruce Walsh presented compelling evidence on this matter. In a letter to the Committee Secretary (which the Committee resolved not to accept as in camera evidence), Mr Walsh advised:

After the selection of the weightlifting team to contest the 1984 Olympic Games, Nick Voukelatos was requested by the Australian Olympic Federation to submit to drug testing. As a result of this request I was contacted by Mr. Sam Coffa by telephone informing me that Voukelatos had appeared before Dr. Bill Webb or Dr. Brian Corrigan (I am not sure which one) and had informed the doctor that he would not be taking the test as he had been using anabolic steroids [sic]. I ask [sic] S. Coffa who had informed him of this information and was told that the source was a person from the A.O.F. He also requested me to contact Voukelatos and tell him to withdraw from the team due to injury or face the prospect of suspension. Shortly after I contacted Voukelatos. He was in a distraught state, alleging that he was affected by alcohol at the time of his admission to the A.O.F. doctor. I informed Voukelatos of S. Coffa's request and he subsequently withdrew from the team with an injured shoulder. My actions were as a result of a direction by my employer.

Mr Walsh's letter is reproduced as Figure 7.9.

7.120 While Mr Coffa has denied all knowledge of steroid-taking by Mr Voukelatos, the Committee is concerned that Mr Voukelatos was not drug tested until 2 July 1984, theoretically allowing more than four weeks for clearance of an oral anabolic steroid such as Dianabol from his system. Of course, he tested negative; Mr Voukelatos subsequently withdrew from the Australian Olympic team citing personal problems as the cause. Nevertheless, he went on to win a gold medal at 56 kg in the 1986 Commonwealth Games.

7.121 The Committee considers that this matter reflects particularly adversely on the Australian Weightlifting Federation. According to evidence presented to the Committee:

- . Mr Voukelatos was on a course of anabolic steroids in preparation for the 1984 Olympic Games;
- . Mr Sam Coffa was aware that Mr Voukelatos had taken steroids; and

FIGURE 7.9



Australian Weightlifting Federation Inc.

Affiliated with Commonwealth and International Weightlifting Federations. Member of Australian Olympic Federation
Australian Commonwealth Games Association, Oceania Federation

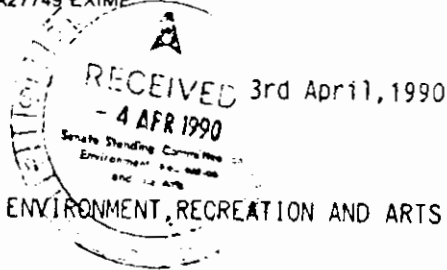
President Sam Coffa, JF 15 Scott St. Canberra, VIC 3128 (02) 636 1671 (H) (02) 618 1788 (B)	Executive Vice President Roger Cashner 6 Romberg Rd. Francis, Forest NSW 2286 (02) 457 2273 (H) (02) 529 2688 (B)	Vice President Tom Johnson 38 Wellington St. Windsor, VIC 3181 (02) 511 5111 (B)	Vice President Bob Edmund 31 Lyster Ave. Mt. Bachelor, VIC 3153 (02) 870 2045 (H)	Secretary Steve Kayser 86 Winsons Rd. Dandenong, VIC 3126 (02) 808 7432 (B)	Treasurer Paul Coffa, MBE P.O. Box 7, Hawthorn, VIC 3122 (02) 819 8612 - 819 8614 (B)
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Executive Director Bruce Walsh (02) 73 2457 - 27 Warbrick Street, Concord, N.S.W. 2137

Development / Coaching Officer Luke Borreggine (02) 636 5896

Please address all correspondence to: A.W.F., 27 Warbrick Street, Concord, NSW 2137

Telex AA27749 EXIMP



Mr. Grundy,
Secretary,

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION AND ARTS.

Dear Sir,

Further to my recent telephone conversation with yourself at 6.30pm on the 2nd April, I make the following submission to be taken as given in camera and under parliamentary privilege accorded to the Senate Inquiry into Drugs in Sport:

"It has been recently brought to my attention that your Committee has made written inquiries to Mr. Sam Coffa concerning Nick Voukelatos and his withdrawal from the 1984 Olympic Games weightlifting team. I have not been consulted about the contents of Mr. Coffa's reply and, as I was involved in the matter, I wish to outline my knowledge of the situation - After the selection of the weightlifting team to contest the 1984 Olympic Games, Nick Voukelatos was requested by the Australian Olympic Federation to submit to drug testing. As a result of this request I was contacted by Mr. Sam Coffa by telephone informing me that Voukelatos had appeared before Dr. Bill Webb or Dr. Brian Corrigan (I am not sure which one) and had informed the doctor that he would not be taking the test as he had been using anabolic steroids. I ask S.Coffa who had informed him of this information and was told that the source was a person from the A.O.F. He also requested me to contact Voukelatos and tell him to withdraw from the team due to injury or face the prospect of suspension. Shortly after I contacted Voukelatos. He was in a distraught state, alleging that he was affected by alcohol at the time of his admission to the A.O.F. doctor. I informed Voukelatos of S.Coffa's request and he subsequently withdrew from the team with an injured shoulder. My actions were as a result of a direction by my employer.

Bruce Walsh
Bruce Walsh
Executive Director.



- . Mr Sam Coffa knew that Mr Voukelatos would test negative in July 1984 if he had been taking Dianabol in June 1984.
- . Mr Coffa was unable to present Mr Voukelatos for a test until sufficient clearance time had elapsed.

7.122 This incident also reflects on the integrity of the Australian Olympic Federation (AOF) with regard to drug testing. Had the AOF fulfilled its responsibilities in this case it would have:

- . formally asked Mr Voukelatos for his account of the failure to test;
- . formally asked Mr Voukelatos to confirm whether he was on a course of anabolic steroids;
- . investigated the incident and considered whether action was appropriate to ban Mr Voukelatos from competition; and
- . informed the AWF and the IWF of the matter.

CONCLUSIONS

7.123 The Committee has examined closely the leading officials of the Australian Weightlifting Federation, their attitudes, expressed policies, and their performance across a number of most important issues. The Committee has written many letters to these officials and spent some hours in a public meeting in Melbourne discussing their views.

7.124 A number of clear conclusions have been reached by the Committee about the senior AWF officials. They are as follows:

Mr Sam Coffa

7.125 There was no corroborated evidence presented to the Committee of any direct involvement by Mr Sam Coffa in the supply of banned performance drugs to weightlifters. Nevertheless, the Committee considers that Mr Sam Coffa's performance as President of the AWF has been characterised by the following:

1. He failed to take proper actions over the unavailability of two weightlifters for drug tests.
 - . Instead of covering up these matters, he ought to have ensured that the cases of Darren Walker and Nick Voukelatos were comprehensively investigated and reported to the AWF.
 - . He ought to have reported those cases to the IWF.
 - . He ought to have ensured that appropriate procedures were followed concerning Mr Walker and Mr Voukelatos in order to demonstrate to other weightlifters that the AWF takes its drug control responsibilities seriously.
2. He allowed a positive drug test (Mr Satry Ma) to be treated in a manner less than required by IWF Rules; he was also compliant in the restricting of the knowledge that a positive drug test had eventuated.
3. He had made complacent comment on public media about a banned performance drug - diuretics.
4. He was party to gross inconsistencies in the treatment of weightlifters who offended the IWF Rules:
 - . Mr Brittain was suspended for two years;

- . Mr Voukelatos and Mr Walker were not properly investigated; and
 - . Mr Ma was not formally suspended and continued to compete in Australia although he returned a test positive for anabolic steroid.
5. He failed to act appropriately on the advice of this Committee's Interim Report (see Chapter Two of this Report).
 6. He may have misled the Committee in relation to his knowledge of Mr Voukelatos' use of anabolic steroids in 1984 and subsequent withdrawal from the 1984 Olympic team.

Mr Boris Kayser

7.126 Similarly, Mr Kayser's performance as AWF Secretary has included the following:

1. Mr Kayser may have knowingly misled this inquiry in the view that he presented on the authority of the AWF to conduct drug tests.
2. Mr Kayser was compliant with the grossly inconsistent AWF discussions on Mr Ma and Mr Brittain.
3. As AWF Secretary, Mr Kayser failed to notify the weightlifting fraternity (AWF and IWF) of the fact that Mr Ma had tested positive for anabolic steroid.

Mr Paul Coffa

7.127 The Committee considers that Mr Paul Coffa's performance as a senior AWF official is similarly reprehensible in that:

1. It is likely that Mr Paul Coffa encouraged the taking of banned performance drugs by weightlifters.
2. It is also likely that Mr Paul Coffa has been involved in the supply of anabolic steroids to weightlifters.
3. Mr Paul Coffa shares the responsibility for the AWF decisions on Mr Satry Ma, Mr Darren Walker and Mr Nick Voukelatos.

Dr David Kennedy

7.128 Dr Kennedy has been responsible for conducting drug testing for the AWF yet he has:

- . provided drug testing notice to weightlifters amounting to adequate clearance time.

Mr Bruce Walsh

7.129 Chief Inspector Topping investigated allegations that Mr Walsh supplied anabolic steroids to weightlifters at police boys clubs; Chief Inspector Topping concluded on the balance of probabilities that Mr Walsh was so involved and the Committee accepts that view.

7.130 Mr Walsh admitted his involvement in the cover-up of the circumstances surrounding Mr Voukelatos' withdrawal from the 1984 Olympic team.

The Board of the AWF

7.131 The Committee considers that the present board of the AWF is unsuitable to hold office:

- . It failed to adequately consider, and act upon, the Interim Report.

- . It has passed a unanimous vote of confidence in Lyn Jones who was found by the Interim Report to have supplied and administered anabolic steroids and other banned substances to AIS athletes.

- . It has failed to act properly in the cases of
 - Mr Satry Ma;
 - Mr Nick Voukelatos, and
 - Mr Darren Walker.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation Fourteen

7.132 The Committee concludes that the AWF has taken no effective action to prevent a recurrence of the activities outlined in the Interim Report. The Committee recommends that this and matters raised in the Second Report should be the subject of investigation by the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Olympic Federation and the Australian Commonwealth Games Federation.

Recommendation Fifteen

7.133 The Committee recommends that, in view of the conclusions reached about senior AWF officeholders, the activities of the national organisation be reviewed at an international level. The Committee recommends that the performance of the AWF be reviewed by the IWF. The IWF should take into account the material presented in this Report and the Interim Report.

Recommendation Sixteen

7.134 The Committee further recommends that if no effective action is taken in relation to the conclusions in both the Interim Report and this Report by the IWF, then both the AOF and the ACGA should consult their international parent bodies with a view to the suspension of weightlifting as a Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games sport.

Recommendation Seventeen

7.135 That the Australian Sports Commission should review its funding of the AWF.

Recommendation Eighteen

7.136 That, with a view to disciplinary action, the Commonwealth Games Association investigate the circumstances surrounding the failure of Darren Walker to attend for a drug test as required during the week ending 19 November 1989.

Recommendation Nineteen

7.137 That to ensure Australia's compliance with international anti-doping agreements, the legislation establishing the Australian Sports Drug Commission should require all athletes eligible for testing to register an address for the receipt of notification that they are required to appear for testing, and that any athlete not appearing for testing within 48 hours of delivery of the notification to the registered address should be deemed to have tested positive. This should not prevent the earlier testing of athletes if they are available.