

AMATEURS JOIN TO COMBAT GAMBLING

THE USGA's stand against gambling in connection with golf tournaments received strong support when 250 amateur golfers joined forces to defend the integrity of golf competitions.

Cognizant of the threat posed by organized gambling, the amateurs signed their names to a resolution stating:

"For the benefit of golf, we hereby agree we will not permit our names to be used or sold in any auction of players or teams in any so-called Calcutta Pool or similar activity attendant to any invitational or guest tournament. Recognizing organized gambling as a threat to the game of golf, we urge all amateur golfers to join us in this resolution."

In announcing the resolution, which he had circulated, William C. Campbell, Captain of last year's Walker Cup Team, said, "If we go along and refuse to cooperate for a year or so, Calcuttas will disappear. If a tournament collapses because of our action, it will be a clear indication that it hasn't been as much a golf tournament as an excuse for gambling."

Other Amateurs Write

Several amateurs subsequently informed us of their reasons for supporting the resolution.

William P. Turnesa, of Elmsford, N. Y., 1938 and 1948 USGA Amateur Champion, advised, "I am against all forms of gambling in connection with amateur golf. The reason for my feeling is that gambling tends to eliminate the all-important sociability and friendship in a match.

William A. Booe, of Bridgeport, Conn., a semi-finalist in the 1955 USGA Amateur Championship, considers gambling a threat to the integrity of the game and "a personal insult to my own character."

Regarding the danger presented by gambling, he continued, "It distracts from the wholesome atmosphere of true competition. Such was the case in a tournament where we found we had a more desirable affair without a Calcutta. Everyone seemed to enjoy the competition without concern

about money or proper handicaps. It was particularly apparent that our guests were not embarrassed during the weekend, especially during the bidding.

"In another instance, I found myself playing a better ball match in which I personally would have been financially richer by losing rather than winning a semi-final match. I owned two 'win' tickets in a pari-mutuel on my own team and one 'place' ticket on my opponent's team. The one ticket would have been worth more than the two, by an odd coincidence, and there was still the final to be played.

"It was disturbing to think what could be involved if it were a large amount of money, and I could only speculate as to what others would have thought if we lost. Just for the record, we won in the sixth extra hole and then were successful in the final."

The True Amateur's Reward

In explaining his reasons for signing the petition, Richard D. Chapman, of Pinehurst, N. C., a former USGA and British Amateur Champion, deplored the influence of gambling as opposing the best interests of the game. "The pleasure of playing with friends and the thrill of winning a match or tournament are all the reward a true amateur golfer should expect," he said.

"I recall," he continued, "an unsavory incident that happened to me in connection with a small Calcutta pool.

"The total of the pool was only about \$4,000, but an intoxicated man purchased our ticket for approximately \$1,200, after opening the bid for that amount. My brother was my partner.

"The next day the owner of our ticket, probably realizing the folly of the night before, told us that we were entitled to purchase fifty percent of our team. My brother declined, as did I. However, the ticket owner then told me that, 'as a true sportsman,' I was 'compelled' to do so.

"Rather than argue, and to save being accused of poor sportsmanship, I took the fifty percent. We won the tournament and a net profit of \$23.60. What price glory!"