

CBC's Annoying Olympics Boosterism

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Tuesday, February 09, 2010

<http://politicsrespun.org/2010/02/cbcs-annoying-olympics-boosterism/>

Yesterday, the CBC's annoying Olympics boosterism was complemented with weak reporting on agents provocateurs and missing an opportunity to nail the IOC on rule of law hypocrisy.

I have only slightly more ability to tolerate the CBC over corporate media when it comes to promoting the Afghan occupation and how amazingly, incredibly awesome the Olympics are.

But yesterday, they ran this story: [Protesters target Olympic torch run](#). It included this weak bit of journalism:

The protesters said Monday their group had been infiltrated by undercover police and said the infiltrators might try to cause trouble so that uniformed police could crack down.

A similar ruse was said to have been tried at a G7 summit meeting in Montebello, Que., in 2007 when police allegedly disguised themselves as demonstrators but were discovered.

VANOC [admitted they had infiltrated a protest group](#) a few months ago. There was no ruse "tried" at Montebello; there was no "alleged" in the agents provocateurs, especially those carrying rocks. Video footage at Montebello captured the "protestors" being confronted by real, peaceful protesters and then "arrested" by the police. [After the video went viral on YouTube](#), the [police admitted to planting](#) agents in the crowd.

I hope CBC Olympic boosterism did not directly lead to this story's watered down facts.

Connected to an easy ride on scandalous police tactics, the CBC missed some flagrant hypocrisy from the IOC.

When the IOC rejected women's ski jumping from the Olympics, they violated our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. BC courts, however, [rightly recognized they have no jurisdiction over the IOC](#), which is a wholly unaccountable international organization which answers to no government and will gleefully violate women's rights in Canada because of whatever policy they hold on which events to include in their games.

Yesterday's CBC piece, however, neglected to mention that evidence of the IOC's flagrant disregard for the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Instead, they merely wrote this:

"We have to accept protests and there will be some and fine, let's leave it. We are used to that," said

Gerhard Heiberg, a member of the IOC's executive board, at a Vancouver news conference Monday.

"For us, it's not an issue. We accept protest, we accept people protesting," said IOC president Jacques Rogge.

"This is free, democratic freedom of expression," Rogge said.

*"What we want is no violence and **we want the people to respect the laws of the country** and then there is no problem."*

It takes a special kind of gold-medal gall for the IOC president to expect protesters to adhere to the laws of the country while his organization itself trampled the very same laws with respect to the female ski jumpers.

I am not surprised by this kind of nonsense from the IOC president, but I have a higher standard for the CBC. We simply cannot let this kind of IOC hypocrisy go unchallenged and we cannot let the CBC play down police use of agents provocateurs.

Our society cannot handle these kind of compromises. The Olympics is bad enough, but we need civil vigilance if we expect to retain the kind of democratic values Jacques Rogge so disingenuously speaks of.