

# Cassius Clay, concluding sparring preparations, discovers he isn't drawing card he claims...ticket sales remain below par

MIAMI BEACH (UPI)—Challenger Cassius Clay, concluding his sparring preparations today for Tuesday's big fight with Sonny Liston, made the unpleasant discovery that he is not the hot-shot gate attraction he arrogantly claimed to be.

Unless the ticket sale for the "live" fight at the Miami Beach Convention Center picks up, the co-promoters, William B. MacDonald and Chris Dundee, will suffer a loss.

MacDonald of Miami Beach, a retired millionaire auto trailer manufacturer, "bought" the fight for \$625,000; and Dundee, Miami Beach sports promoter, provided the license and the savvy for the enterprise.

MacDonald announced Thursday night that the advance ticket sale was about \$300,000—"including cash and dependable orders." Unless his gate for the 16,448 seats totals more than \$800,000, he said, the promotion will lose money — because of the combined \$625,000 purchase and the all-round promoting ex-

penses. The original live-gate target was \$1,100,000. Nathan L. Halpern, president of Theatre Network Television, Inc. (TNT), was slated to arrive in Miami Beach today and report to the press on the status of sales at the 265 closed-circuit television locations in the United States and Canada. Last week Halpern told of an excellent early sale. He said his hopes of the first million closed-circuit attendance for any event apparently would be realized. A sellout would top \$5 million, he said.

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