

Hear Me Talkin' to Ya

By BILL

THAT OLD SONG, entitled, "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea," heard far too often nowanights via radio, might well have been written especially for those baseball players who now occupy a position on the anxious seat, bench or what have you?

Look at the present diamond situation from any angle you choose and I'll wager that if you're truthful you will agree with me in my opinion. I have not made the above statement without cause nor have I malice aforethought when I express such a sentiment. I'm trying to marshal the facts and interpret them impartially.

Reports from the East-West League meeting persist that the moguls believe that a \$2,400 monthly payroll is as much as they will countenance, with the likelihood that from 15 to 18 men will compose the club roster. If it is true that during the past two seasons some of the stars received \$350 monthly and over, one does not need a magnifying glass to see that if such a salary scale is to prevail during the coming season that there will be some players on the team drawing some rather feeble pay checks.

If, on the other hand the "name players" are cut along with the average players there will be some stars working at a ridiculously low figure. One must take into consideration, of course, the fact that depression days have brought reductions in all other lines of endeavor, and they are to be expected in baseball.

One might say that if the league members won't pay the top salaries demanded by these acres of the diamond, owners of outlaw clubs will gobble up the stars. Others may even go so far as to say that independent moguls will outbid members of the league for the services of certain players and thus capture the most capable stars for their teams. With the financial condition such as it is, however, I doubt that any baseball men are going to throw better judgment to the winds and gamble on paying big salaries with the hope of getting it back at the gate. That isn't being done this year.

Some players have howled about the new system whereby players must bear their own expenses while on the road. They feel that they are being made to suffer enough without adding this burden and insist that most of the owners have been getting a break on low expense accounts involving transportation, boarding and lodging. The owners, of course, say that the opposite is true. They are in the business, at least most of them, to make money and while their sympathies may be lavished upon certain players, their main interest is in hearing the turnstiles click long and loud.

There have been, of course, certain individuals who have denied that they were in the business to make money. "I had money before I started monkeying around with baseball," one of them is quoted as having said. "It's not the dough that I'm after." Which is a rather pretty speech, but one which few people will swallow no matter how hard they try. It would be unnatural for a business man to act that way.

If the owners adopt a we-know-what-is-best attitude toward the players I think that they are wrong, and if the players become overly belligerent I cannot sympathize with them or their technique. Organized baseball depends, as I so often have said, upon close cooperation. It can not succeed if cut-throat or underhanded methods are used.

There is an opportunity for players and owners to get together and I, for one, am hoping that they will. It is only natural that some ball players be left out in the cold, but when all is said and done I am still of the opinion that those who do the hiring and firing have, unmistakably, the upper hand, a condition which exists in practically every instance of employer-employee contact, but more so at present.

Players then, must not be too insistent in their demands and must employ a polished technique in probing to the heart of their problems. Both sides of the picture must be presented to the public, so far as good business procedure will permit. I am anxious to see just who gets what contract, and, from reports which come from rather reliable sources, the next few weeks will disclose developments, the like of which have never been witnessed by followers of the diamond pastime.

OVER-EMPHASIS

WITH ALL OF THE TALK going on about the alleged over-emphasis which in recent years is being placed upon college athletics, particularly football, this writer felt that since he had expressed his views in the matter that it might not be a bad idea to get the reactions of some of the presidents of our major institutions.

Accordingly, letters were sent, inviting these educators to state whether in their opinion, there is too much emphasis being placed by schools upon their athletic programs. The responses to date, have been gratifying, to say the least, representing a variety of opinions.

Read what some of our outstanding educators have to say on this matter which has filled columns and columns in the daily press since the close of the 1931 football season. I present first, President John W. Davis, of West Virginia State College, Institute, W. Va. He says:

No Evidence

Personally, I believe that there is not a great deal of fact connected with the thought that football is over emphasized in so-called colleges for colored. This sport and all others are extra-curricular in this institution. I believe that the student mind of this college gives proper and yet subordinate place to the sports program of the college.

On the other hand, however, a difference of opinion is noted in the reply given by President John M. Gandy, of Virginia State College of Petersburg, Va., who declares:

Association Blamed

I share the opinion of many educators of the country that sports including especially, football and basketball, are over-emphasized in our colleges.

I am inclined to feel that this is due to the requirements of the district athletic associations, including, among other things, the awarding of a championship at the close of the season. If some agreement could be reached by which the practice of awarding a championship could be abandoned, many of the evils now found in the athletics of the colleges would naturally disappear.

It would not be necessary to set up rules for the eligibility of players. Of course, there would not be the amount of interest that is now manifested among the schools, and athletics would take a more natural place in the life of the colleges.

Still another factor is noted by President R. P. Sims, of the Bluefield (W. Va.) State Teachers' College, who places the blame for what over-emphasis there is, at another door. The Bluefield educator writes:

Public Responsible

I have not noted the schedule of any colored institution that, in my opinion, carries too many games for the proper inculcation of the spiritual and physical qualities that it is possible to instill in youngsters through group play.

In my opinion, the evils of athletics in colored colleges are due to the fact that they copy in a crude way, the evils of athletics in white colleges. The coaches feel that they must win at any cost, saying that the public will only be interested in winning teams, so that they are apt to resort to the subsidizing of athletics in one of two ways.

The alumni and the coach with certain business interests about the institution will try to secure a major part of the aid which an

institution is able to offer to persons who must earn while they learn, for members of the athletic squad, or they will pay a few dollars on the expenses of the athlete and leave him to do as best he can after the season is over.

Both of these things result, in the mind of the individual helped, in a loss of perspective. He thinks that institutions are run primarily for athletic programs. The other students, knowing of this condition, get the idea that athletics is much more important than the other work of the school, and athletics constitutes about the only part of the program of the school from which the general public can gain any benefits, and this in the way of being amused. Thus there is cultivated an unusual interest in athletics in the minds of the student group.

In other words, the over-emphasis is on the part of the public and not on the part of the institutions.

So, you see, there is no unanimity on this matter of over-emphasis. The matter appears to be a highly relative one, depending in large part upon the specific institutions fostering athletic programs.

The varying shades of opinion are interesting, as well as informative, showing definitely that there is no one isolated angle from which the situation may be viewed. A combination of circumstances makes the problem an intricate one, and one, which in the final analysis, must be worked out separately by each school.

There will be certain points of agreement and certain points of difference, no matter how many opinions are brought into a solution of the matter. The fact, alone, that some attention is being given to a problem of such nation-wide significance is not only gratifying but stimulating, giving added faith that eventually some system will be worked out whereby smaller and smaller premiums will be placed upon athletic prowess and greater ones placed upon other extra-curricular achievements.

But, as I pointed out quite some time ago, the process of transition is going to be a slow and painful one for some schools until there is found a financial source which will adequately provide for the development of one hundred per cent athletic programs touching the life of every student enrolled.

A NOTE OR TWO

WONDER WHAT that contemporary meant last week when it reported that "East-West Loop Moguls in Huddle Frame Schedules, Umpires, Pilots" and they rock chairs. Sir Neville Reed, the omniscient, writes me a two-page single spaced letter in which he files 10 reasons why he withdrew his Howard High team from the floor in the game with Douglass High, here a pair of weeks ago. He protests at length against the officiating saying, among other things, that the designation of the home book as the official score book was all wet. Wonder what Rule 6, Section 12 has to say about the matter?

I can't go into the detailed reasons (10) given by Coach Reed. Summed up, they state that the officials, Pinky Clarke and Elder Russell, were incompetent and called violations which did not exist, ignoring others. . . . granting that to be true, taking a team from the floor for any reason whatever, indicates a quitter and the world doesn't lavish love upon that type. . . . the guy who takes his medicine and grins, and maybe protests later, gets the plaudits. . . . and as for the crowd at the game. . . . I doubt if there were fifty pupils in the house exclusive of the players. . . . maybe when space permits I'll list the Ten Reed Points. . . . but this week, no can do.

W. B. Ziff Okeyed for Congress in District Adjoining DePriest's



W. B. ZIFF

CHICAGO—The political pot has begun to boil here following the announcement that William B. Ziff, ad-

vertising man and South Side leader, has announced his candidacy for United States Congress from the Second District.

This district lies south of 43rd Street, and east of State Street, and adjoins that of Representative Oscar DePriest. Mr. Ziff, 33, a veteran of the World War, in which he served with the 262nd aero squadron, is a liberal Republican and already has won considerable favor by the speeches which he has made at several gatherings.

That he should carry the nomination by an unprecedented majority is already being predicted along political row, and the announcement of his candidacy has already led to the expectation of the withdrawal of some of the other candidates in the field in his favor before long.

In a recent speech he declared that the paramount issue concerns the problem of employment. "While we are pussyfooting," he said, "men, women and children are dying of starvation. We need prompt action so that these persons can be taken care of immediately with bread and butter and a roof over their heads."

Frankness and sincerity have marked all of the candidate's campaign speeches and the Ziff boom seems to be gaining momentum daily.

Jersey Elks Ask Finley Wilson To Postpone 1932 Convention

SPRINGWOOD, N. J.—C. Lawrence Minyard, local Elk leader, called upon J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler of Elks, in the name of wisdom and common sense, to postpone the 1932 convention of Elks, which is to meet in California, for one year, on account of hard times.

Mr. Minyard quotes from Article 17, Section 2, of the Constitution of the order which gives authority to the grand exalted ruler and trustees to change time and place of holding annual session in case of emergency or extreme necessity.

This is such an emergency, says Mr. Minyard, and adds that we are going through a financial famine in which it has been necessary for President Hoover to appeal to timid capitalists to stop hoarding.

ENGLISH

Words often Misused

Do not say, "Every once in awhile." Omit EVERY. Say, "Once in awhile."

Words often Misspelled

Prosecutor; OR, not ER.

Words oft a Mispronounced

Clientele. Pronounce kli-en-tel, i as in "lie," first e unstressed, last e as in "tell" or as in "feel," accent last syllable.

Synonyms

Insert, intercalate, interpolate.

Word Study

FLACCID: lacking stiffness; soft and weak; flabby. "His skin was flaccid and wrinkled."

WEEK'S POEM

LIFE'S MIRROR.

By Madeline Bridges.
There are loyal hearts, there are spirits brave,
There are souls that are pure and true;
Then give to the world the best you have.
And the best will come back to you.
Give love, and love to your life will flow,
A strength in your utmost need;
Have faith, and a score of hearts will show
Their faith in your word and deed.
Give truth, and your gift will be paid in kind,
And honor will honor meet;
And a smile that is sweet will surely find
A smile that is just as sweet.
Give sorrow and pity to those who mourn,
You will gather in flowers again
The scattered seeds of your thought outborne.
Though the sowing seemed but vain,
For life is the mirror of king and slave—
'Tis just what we are and do;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.



Builds Healthy Blood



INDIGESTION

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