

By MIKE RATHER

Associated Press Sports Writer

# Flood case challenging majors' reserve clause begins in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — Curt Flood, obviously more nervous as a court witness than as a St. Louis Cardinal outfielder, testified Tuesday that he had brought his anti-trust suit against baseball because "I didn't think I should be traded and treated like a piece of property."

That is the critical point of Flood's case challenging baseball's reserve system which began trial in Federal Court here before Judge Irving Ben Cooper, a battery of attorneys and several members of the baseball establishment.

Flood, nattily dressed in a blue, double breasted suit, appeared tense as he hunched forward on the witness stand and was led through his testimony by attorney Arthur Goldberg, former Supreme Court Justice now a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor of New York State.

The one-time \$90,000-a-year outfielder had to be handed a baseball bubble gum card to recall his batting averages in specific years and several times had to be admonished by the judge for not answering questions properly.

Flood, in challenging baseball's

reserve system, is attempting to prove that the sport is a monopoly operating in restraint of trade.

At issue is what is popularly known as the reserve clause—actually a set of rules that binds the player to the team that signs him until he is traded, sold or released with or without his knowledge and—or approval.

In his testimony, Flood said he was not consulted before being traded to Philadelphia following the 1969 season and did not want to play for the Phillies because, "I didn't want to move my businesses and family into another part of the United States."

He revealed he had met Philadelphia general manager John Quinn to discuss the trade and that Quinn had offered him "a little more than \$100,000 in salary" to play with the Phillies, plus \$8,000 in spring training expenses—a package in the \$100,000 neighborhood.

But Flood indicated more was not the issue when, as the hearing session ended, he was asked by Goldberg if he would play for another club at a higher salary if he was traded without his consent.

"No," Flood replied.

That seemed to round out Flood's questioning.



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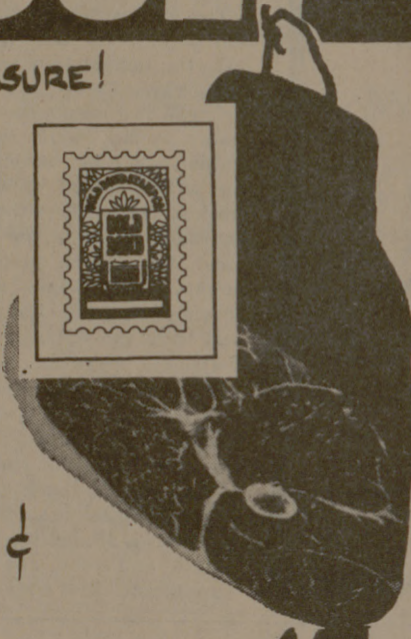
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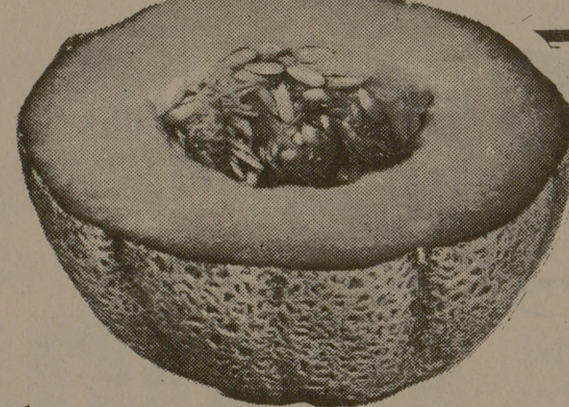
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