

Sports

Labor secretary joins talks Ethics and winning at all costs to add pressure to owners

United Press International
NEW YORK — Secretary of Labor Raymond Donovan has entered the baseball negotiations and his presence may force the owners to make a move that would bring an end to the strike now in its 34th day.

A negotiating session was scheduled for 2 p.m. EDT today, and Donovan will speak to both sides to advise them of the administration's concern about the prolonged dispute.

According to management sources, Donovan's entry into the talks is putting pressure on the owners, and they were expected to offer another proposal to the players at today's meeting.

Federal mediator Kenneth Moffett, who got things stirred up last weekend by presenting a compromise proposal, said he thought the two sides were getting very

close to a settlement.

"I'm quite optimistic, especially after the lousy meeting we had last week," said Moffett Tuesday night on ABC-TV's Night Line. "I'm hopeful of getting this thing done in a day or two. Both sides made a lot of movement last week and there's been lots of conversation since then. I think it's ready to settle."

It was under Moffett's urging Donovan agreed to attend today's session. Earl Cox, his special assistant, said the decision to go to New York was the outgrowth of several days of discussions between Moffett and Donovan, but was not at the direction of the White House.

"This is the act of the secretary," Cox said. "It does not reflect any words he has received from the administration. It was not cleared."

Cox added, however, the White House was being kept informed of developments.

It was to be the first time anyone from the Reagan administration has become involved in the strike, which has forced the cancellation of 393 games, including the All-Star game.

However, Doug DeCinces, a member of the players' negotiating committee, questioned what kind of impact Donovan's speech would have on either side.

"It'll be interesting to see. I don't really know," said DeCinces, who also appeared on Night Line. "The main question I have is whether he's totally briefed on the situation."

DeCinces indicated the owners would make a new proposal today, but was not as optimistic as Moffett the strike would end soon.

"I kind of felt we had the opportunity to settle last weekend with the proposal Mr. Moffett brought forth," DeCinces said. "The players finally decided to give up some things in hopes of getting this settled and resuming this season. We have yet to see the new proposal."

Earlier in the day, the administration told Congress there is no reason for professional baseball's antitrust exemption and urged that it be eliminated.

Abbott Lipsky Jr., deputy assistant attorney general, told the House subcommittee on monopolies and commercial law the "antitrust laws are sufficiently flexible to accommodate whatever unusual or unique business characteristics might exist in the professional sports industry."

He noted the Supreme Court ruled in 1922 baseball was exempt from the antitrust laws because it was not trade or commerce within the meaning of the Sherman Act, and it was not interstate in nature.

"We have seen no economic or other justification for an exemption for professional baseball," Lipsky said. "It has been the position of the antitrust division for some time that baseball's exemption is an anachronism and should be eliminated. I reaffirm that position today."

Something very sad happened last week to college athletics. Sad because it seems to be happening more often and on a larger scale.

Former University of New Mexico basketball coach Norm Ellenberger was handed a one-year deferred sentence for illegally collecting money for recruiting trips he supposedly never took. He was convicted on 21 counts of fraud and filing false public vouchers.

Although the university was not punished for any illegal recruiting, it seems the presiding judge's remarks following the trial made it quite clear that some type of inducements were offered to some of the players.

Describing Ellenberger as "simply one cog in a machine" over the country called college ball, Judge Phillip Baiamonte said the coach was being sentenced "because he got caught."

Baiamonte went so far as to place the blame for Ellenberger's "wrongdoings" on major-college athletic programs across the country for "maintaining what amounts to professional ball clubs in the guise of amateur athletics."

Buying off players by whatever means is not the goal of college athletics. It never was and it will never be. The goal of intercollegiate athletics is good, clean amateur competition at the highest level.

General George Patton perhaps said it best when he said that

The way I see it
By Ritchie Priddy

America loves a winner. How right he was.

Winning is great. Everyone loves a winner. It not only means pride and support for the team but it also means sold-out stadiums and big bucks rolling into the athletic department.

Understand that I am not against winning or the money it brings in. On the contrary. It takes a lot of money to support the athletic department of a major university and I realize that every cent is needed and accounted for.

The issue here is the cost of winning. Athletics involves more than just physical sports engaged in by athletes. It has become a huge business involving millions of people — not just athletes — and literally billions of dollars.

If the pressure to succeed in life is enormous. The pressure to win in major-college athletics is overwhelming.

For some unknown reason athletes (football and basketball more than any other sport) drive

people crazy. Maybe it's the thrill of competition. Maybe it's because at the college level people take so much pride in their schools and/or team that winning has become an obsession. Whatever it is, the fact remains that people often judge a school by the success of its teams and not by the quality of education it has to offer. The only difference at Texas A&M is that in years past the school has enjoyed success at both.

The last couple of years, though, the Ags, athletically, have not lived up to expectations. Makes one wonder about the pressure being applied now to some of the coaches by some known and unknown "athletic interests."

It makes one wonder even more about the investigation the NCAA is currently conducting into the Texas A&M Athletic Department.

When a team fails to produce, the coach is the butt of all jokes. His future is determined solely by his won-loss record. And it should be. If he starts out with a some-

thing-less-than-spectacular season, he's not given much chance to produce a winning team. He doesn't matter that it takes time to produce a powerhouse. He's out of it now or he is gone. And others make sure of that.

I think that in many cases pressure to win makes it impossible for a coach to carry out a program he thinks can win. He takes chances, opting instead for sure things like offering the players certain incentives for him so that a "powerhouse" could be just around the corner.

Some people say that the program is trivial, though, compared to the revenue being in.

While I support a winning team as much as the next person, I do not condone a philosophy of winning at all costs. Not even if it means a hood depended on it. Some people think that a person has to win himself if he is satisfied with his life, his successes and the way he went about them.

I think the cost of winning should be paid by the coaches, not the athletes, alone. Not by any "athletic interests" offering inducements to players or by the application of the coaching staff to anybody.

The point I'm trying to make is that America loves a winner. Does America see the difference between winning fair and just and winning?

National League wins mock game

United Press International
CLEVELAND — There's one aspect of the Strat-O-Matic board baseball game that's realistic.

In a mock All-Star game played at home plate in Municipal Stadium Tuesday, the National League buried the American League, 15-2, continuing a mastery that has lasted more than two decades.

The real All-Star game was canceled because of the players' strike, but a local television station decided to stage a "game" of its own, complete with the Canadian and American national anthems and the ceremonial throwing out

of the first dice — instead of a ball — by Hall of Famer Bob Feller.

Dave Parker of Pittsburgh won the game's Most Valuable Player Award, with three hits in five trips, including a home run. Philadelphia's Manny Trillo, who was 2-for-4 with three runs scored and three RBI, finished second in the balloting.

The rosters were chosen by officials from Sportsphone and WKYC-TV and the managers were two producers from the station, Jon Halpern and Jim Schaefer.

Parker got the Nationals on the board first with a solo home run in

the second inning — a screaming line shot over the centerfield fence that official scorer Dan Coughlin of the Plain Dealer estimated at 415 feet.

The AL tied it in the bottom of the third, when Willie Randolph of the Yankees led off with a walk, advanced to second on a ground-out and scored on a single by Oakland's Rickey Henderson.

Cincinnati's Dave Concepcion led off the fifth with a single and was replaced by pinch-runner Andre Dawson of Montreal. Dawson promptly stole second and scored when Trillo singled to right.

The NL put the game away with seven runs in the seventh.

With one out, Philadelphia's Pete Rose singled and moved third on a double by Eastern Michigan's Mike Schmidt. The AL manager then elected to walk the Phillies' Mike Schmidt to first base and face Parker.

Parker singled, Joel Youngblood of the Mets followed with a double and Montreal's Garret Anderson ended the inning with a single and a two-run homer.

The Yankees' Dave Winfield got the other run for the AL in the seventh when he hit a towering home run over the centerfield fence in the seventh inning, mated at 422 feet by Coughlin.

The winning pitcher was Camp of Atlanta, who pitched a perfect inning. Oakland's Norris, who was touched for runs in 1-3 innings, was replaced by ace reliever Rich Conway. The Yankees had the day's performance, though, with five runs on six hits in 2 1/2 innings.

About 77,942 empty seats watched the game, which finished in record time for a Star game: 61 minutes.



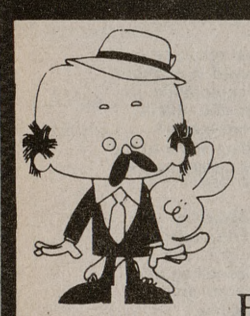
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