

# 'Select group' of owners sees to Kuhn's removal

by Milton Richman  
UPI Sports Editor

CHICAGO — A newsman, eager to find out how far along the owners had gotten in their blood-letting of Bowie Kuhn, buttonholed Chub Feeney, the National League president, as he was hurrying back into one of the meeting rooms.

Feeney stopped for a moment. His eyes rolled up in their sockets like someone in the process of expiring and a small, low gurgle came from his throat. Consciously or not, he had presented a perfect portrayal of the sad and diminished state baseball finds itself in today. Instead of a commissioner it can look to for any direction, it has a lame duck who can only be looked upon as a token figure for nine more months at best.

Instead of any real harmony, the 26 owners are now divided in resentment over which of them fought to have Kuhn re-elected and those who sought to dismiss him.

Monday's action in showing Kuhn the door may have the effect of retarding a restructuring of the game.

"All right, now those who wanted him out have had their way," said Ballard Smith, president of the San Diego Padres and a member of baseball's executive council. "There were eight of them in all who voted against him, but not one of them has been able to suggest anybody to take his place. Not one."

Gene Autry, the California Angels' owner, said he had no idea who the next commissioner would be.

worked so hard for Kuhn's reelection, made no effort to conceal how badly he felt. Five National League owners cast their closed ballots against Kuhn and that was enough to keep his contract from being renewed even though the seven others in the league supported him.

In the 14-club American League Kuhn made a good showing. The vote was 11-3 in his favor, but that was academic because the four votes against him in the National League finished him.

After the votes were counted and it was obvious Kuhn was out, Peter O'Malley of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Dan Galbreath of the Pittsburgh Pirates went up to his suite in the Hyatt Regency O'Hare to give him the news.

He knew it already and also knew who voted against him in the National League. The five were Gussie Busch of St. Louis, Nelson Doubleday of the New York Mets, John McMullen of Houston, Ted Turner of Atlanta and James Williams of Cincinnati.

"It was predictable," Kuhn told O'Malley and Galbreath,

who along with Bud Selig asked him to finish his seven-year term, which expires Aug. 12, said he would.

"I'll tell you one thing — I got guts," Gabe Paul of Cleveland said.

Eddie Chiles, the Texas Rangers' owner, identified himself as one of the three American Leaguers who was against Kuhn's re-election.

"I didn't vote against him, I voted against the system," he said. "I think the commissioner's system has outlived its usefulness."

"When we get through restructuring in Honolulu, I'm in talking about the owners' next meeting a month from now, there may not be a commissioner per se. This system we've had for 60 years has become outdated."

Denying he was bitter about the decision, Kuhn said: "The vote not given to those things I would be misleading you. I have never taken some pride that after 10 years I received 70 percent of the vote. That's a landslide. It wasn't enough here."

"I don't think this was such a smart thing to do," he said.

Buzzie Bavasi, the Angels' general manager, listened and agreed with his boss.

"No self-respecting candidate would take the job after all the abuse Bowie took," Bavasi said.

Smith, one of those who

## Rangers choose Rader

United Press International  
ARLINGTON — Doug Rader took one of the least secure jobs in major league baseball Monday, following in the footsteps of some high profile individuals who found the Texas Rangers impossible to turn around.

Rader, bringing with him a reputation for mental toughness and discipline, became the 12th manager in the Rangers' 11-year history.

But even if he lasts no longer than some of his predecessors, his tenure should be interesting.

"I think we found a guy who will be our manager for a long time," said Texas General Manager Joe Klein, who has been on the job for only a month. "Rader" knows how to get along with people and how to extract the best from them. He is young and thoroughly dedicated."

If the 38-year-old Rader does stay around the Rangers for a long time, he will be the first manager to do so. Only one former Texas manager — Pat Corrales — has managed the club for as long as two full seasons. Such notables as Billy Martin and Whitey Herzog did not last that long.

Rader, who could work as a stand-up comic and whose pranks became legend during his playing days with the Houston Astros, admitted the track record of past Rangers managers gives him pause.

"It scares the hell out of me," Rader said.

But he also said he changed his mind about wanting a major league managerial job once Klein approached him and said the club simply needed stability to overcome its losing image. Rader said lack of effort was one thing he would not tolerate.

"I will go to any length and will do anything I have to do to motivate the players," Rader said.

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