Behind The Play In Sports

BY DON DE LEIGHBUR

LARRY McPHAIL, YANKEE PRESIDENT, OUTLINES REASONS WHY MAJOR LEAGUES DON'T HIRE COLORED PLAYERS; FEPC DRIVE IN N. Y. BEHIND DRIVE

NEW YORK — Larry McPhail opened the fall and winter Hot Stove League season in the other week with a bunt down the first base line that all but caught the opposing team—the Put-Negro-Players-In-The Majors baseball club, back on grass. The president of the New York Yankee Coropration became the first major league club head to make a detailed and analytical statement on the whys and wherefores of the color bar against colored ballplayers in the big leagues, and also the first to let a little light shine on the deals major league baseball has with the Negro leagues whereby playing grounds are provided in the big parks for the darker brothers in a manner suggesting "something going on." The red-haired former president of the Brooklyn Dodgers submitted his views in a lengthy written statement to the committee recently appointed by Mayor LaGuardia to survey and study this "problem."

Many of the things taken up in the MacPhail manifesto seem on the surface unanswerable and that accounts for the opening remarks in this piece about the opposing team being caught napping on the fielding of a bunt by Yankees boss. These are the highlights of MacPhail's discussion:

1. "I have no hesitation in saying that the Yankees have no intention of signing Negro players under contract to Negro clubs.

CALLS TRYOUTS "SHEER HYPOCRISY"

2. "I do not believe anything can be accomplished by signing Negro players for small minor league clubs. To give tryouts to players who you do not intend to employ is sheer hypocrisy.

3. "I believe the Negro is entitled to a better deal in baseball and I will favor any practical program to produce this result, IF and when the Negro leagues put thier house in order — establish themselves on a sound and ethical operations basis — and conform to the standards of Organized Baseball — I favor admitting them to Organized Baseball and the rights, privileges and obligations of such membership."

MacPhail unlimbere this big guns on the subject. "The principal reasons why Negro players have not been signed by major league clubs are as follows:

1. "Organized Baseball derives substantial revenues from operation of the Negro leagues and wants these leagues to continue and to prosper. Negro league clubs rent their parks in most cities from clubs in Organized Baseball. The Yankee Organization alone, nets nearly $100,000 a year from rentals and concessions with Negro league games at Yankee Stadium in New York and at Kansas City, Newark and Norfolk.

2. "The outstanding Negro players are under contract or reservation to clubs in the Negro leagues. Even if Organized Baseball wanted to sign these players, it could not do so without violating the contractual relationship existing between the Negro leagues and their players.

3. "Signing a few Negro players for the major leagues would be a gesture which would contribute little or nothing towards the solution of the basic problem. Any such program would be too disadvantageous to the Negro players and the Negro fans and would result instead of broaden opportunity for the Negro boy in professional baseball for the following reasons:

QUOTES NEGRO EDITOR ON INABILITY

A. There are few, if any Negro players who could qualify for play in the major leagues at this time. A major league player must have something besides natural ability He must possess the, technique, the coordination, the competitive aptitude and the discipline usually acquired after years of training in the smaller leagues. The minor league experiences of players on the Yankee roster, for instance, averages 7 yrs. The major leagues are primarily interested in the teen-age boy with great potentialities who'll have years of service left after competship." Here MacPhail quotes Sam There are those among league players who might possibly excel in the matter of hitting or fielding or base-running. But for the most part, the fellows who would hold their own in more than one of thse phases of the game, are few and far between — perhaps nil."

MacPhail's summary is extensive. He seems to have devoted plenty of time and preparation for what he has to say. He discussed Negro baseball with the authority of one who has studied it for a long time, not as one who has glanced at it and then called on a bunch of social workers to dig up some facts for a coming speech on the subject. He sees vividly the lack of organization in the Negro leagues and the fact that no overall organizational scheme is in effect binding the four leagues (NNL, NAL, Southern and U. S. Leagues) together in a fashion that obtains, say, in amateur sports such as the American Tennis Association, or one of the Negro church baseball leagues as existed in Chicago back in the 20s and early 30s.

MONARCHS DRAW 315,000 IN '44

He knows, for example, that Negro baseball employs about 400 players under contract to the 24 clubs in the circuits; that the Kansas City Monarchs drew 315,000 people to its home and road games in 1944 that the East-West game in Chicago attracts 50,000 fans who paid $72,000 to see the game; that an all-time attendance mark was set at Griffith Stadium in Washington by Negro clubs, that a crowd of 15,000 watched a doubleheader at Yankee Stadium, September 15. He then went on to display his intimate knowledge of the colored baseball setup with the observation that 54 colored professional ballplayers served in the Armed Forces in the war — that one was killed and several wounded in combat. He is significant in his comment that if the minor or major leagues raid the Negro leagues for players, these leagues will fold up and the investments of their club owners will be "wiped out and a lot of professional Negro players will lose their jobs. The Negroes who own and operate these clubs naturally do not favor any such programs."

MacPhail, incidentally, is getting his big guns trained on the target for a last-ditch fight that will surely come up this fall and winter before the New York State Fair Employment Practices Commission on the subject of barring colored players from the three New York league clubs — the Yankees, The Giants and Dodgers, because of their color. The penalty for persisting in discrimination of this sort includes a jail sentence and a stiff fine. Larry doesn't intend to pay or go to jail and is getting his views off in front hoping thereby to convince a lot of people that the Jim Crow setup whereby Negro clubs can use major league parks so long as their owners don't back the drive to force the issue on the big league color ban, isn't so bad after all, but is also profitable.

MacPhail's remarks show he is bitterly reactionary on the whole matter, and he shows it in what he says the Yankee management doesn't intend to do about hiring Negro players.

MacPHAIL POSES TRADITIONAL "IF"

Th practical program to produce a better deal for Negroes in baseball he favors is predicated on a huge "IF" and "when the Negro leagues approve and other difficulties can be overcome. I personally favor the adoption of some plan under which a limited number of Negro players, who first establish ability, character and aptitude in their own league, might advance to the minors or big minors of Organized Baseball. A system of selection might be worked out similar to the one by which a few players advanced from the minors to the majors of Organized Baseball." MacPhail here goes further in a seemingly studious attempt to avoid that FEPC jail sentence by declaring, "I think some such plan as this would help, instead of injure the Negro leagues. It would encourage the young Negro player because it would give him a chance to reach the top. It would also give deserved recognition to the Negro fan who helps support baseball — both Negro and white." The inevitability of the situation seems apparent to MacPhail in these remarks. Governor Thomas E. Dewey's insistence that New York State have its own FEPC, even though Washington turned down such a body, is at last bringing the Big Boys to the bar and MacPhail knows it.

ARE RISKEY, YAWKEY AFTER ROBINSON?

MacPhail's observation that few, if any Negro players could qualify for play in the majors at this time, seems a bit facetious, for why would Branch Rickey of the Dodgers and Tom Yawkey of the Boston Red Sox (both seeking to avoid a head-in collision with liberal forces fighting discrimination in employment) be so interested in the Kansas City Morach's shortstop, Jackie Robinson? It will be recalled that Robinson had a tryout with Boston earlier this year and Yawkey seemed duly impressed. Rickey has an eye on him also and recently called him to New York for a secret conference, where it is believed Branch told the former University of California all-round athlete, to hold himself in readiness to make a sudden jump if the pressure got too hot on Brother Rickey.

MacPhail had better cast an eye toward a colored player himself because the "Great Day Is A Comin'" mighty soon. Among them, Larry would find the .365 hitting catcher-outfielder of the Baltimore Elite Giants, Roy Campinella; the 1944 Negro National League batting champ, Frank Austin, Philadelphia Stars shortstop, who ended the 1945 season with a .354 average; the home run specialist, Josh Gibson, of the Homestead Grays, who hit .398 for the season; Newcombe, the 18-year old pitcher from the Newark Eagles; and Welmaker also of the Gras who won 1 and lost four with his club.

Yep, Larry, there are quite a few Negro players who can qualify for play in the majors. You see, my man, these boys chalk up records in spite of lack of proper training and traveling facilities, balanced diets, topflight managerial direction, comfortable salaries and the onsciousness that they "belong" beause they are first of all, American.

All you have to do, Larry, is to look at your white semi-pro clubs, many of which have better organizations than the average Negro league club, and see how these players compare with colored boys who LACK what they receive as a matter of routine. And last of all, Larry, in most of the games played by picked Negro teams and clubs made up of your sainted and hallowed major minor leaguers, the Negro clubs have prevailed. Ask Satchel Paige, Josoh Gibson, John (Neck) Stanley, Willie Wells, Oscar Charleston, George Scules, Martin Dihigo, Jose Fernandez, Frank Duncan, Candy Jim Taylor, Lefty Grove, Bob Feller, or the Dean Brothers. They know because they have played the game.

CIAA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE FOR 1945

OPPONENTS	PLACE
SEPTEMBER 29	
N. C. College vs. Smith	Durham
OCTOBER 6	
Hampton vs. Smith	Hampton
Bluefield vs N. C. College	Bluefield
Morgan vs Del. State	Baltimore
Shaw vs. A and T.	Raleigh
W. Va. vs. Howard	Institute
OCTOBER 13	
A. and T vs. Hampton	Greensboro
Bluefield vs Shaw	Bluefield
Del. State vs Lincoln	Dover
Union vs Howard	Richmond
Va State vs. Smith	Petersburg
W Va vs Morgan State	Institute
OCTOBER 20	
Hampton vs Va State	Hampton
N. C. College vs A and T.	Durham
Shaw vs Howard	Raleigh
Smith vs. W. Va.	Charlotte
Union vs Lincoln	Norfolk
OCTOBER 26	
Lincoln vs. Morgan	Philadelphia
OCTOBER 27	
A and T vs. W Va	Greensboro
Bluefield vs Union	Bluefield
Hampton vs Delaware	Hampton
Howard vs Smith	Washington
NOVEMBER 3	
Hampton vs Lincoln	Hampton
Howard vs. Delaware	Washington
Morgan vs A and T	Baltimore
Union vs N C College	Richmond
Va State vs W Va	Petersburg
NOVEMBER 10	
Howard vs Hampton	Washington
Lincoln vs Va State	Lincoln
Morgan vs Bluefield	Baltimore
Shaw vs Union	Raleigh
Smith vs N C College	Charlotte
NOVEMBER 17	
Hampton vs Morgan	Hampton
Smith vs. Shaw	Charlotte
Va State vs A and T	Petersburg
W Va vs Bluefield	Institute
NOVEMBER 22 (Thanksgiving Day)	
A and T vs Smith	Greensboro
Lincoln vs. Howard	Philadelphia
Morgan vs Va State	Baltimore
N C College vs Shaw	Durham
Union vs Hampton	Richmond
DECEMBER 1	
Va State vs Union	Petersburg

—V—

CLEVELAND BEAT HOMESTEAD 3 STRAIGHT GAMES

WASHINGTON (ANP) — The Cleveland Buckeyes took their third straight world series game from the Washington Homestead Grays before 6,000 fans at Griffith stadium, Tuesday night, winning 4-0, and beating the Grays' ace southpaw, Roy Welmaker, for the second time in the bargain.

The speed and youth of the inspired Buckeyes proved too much for the Grays' veterans who were unable to solve the curve ball delivery of George Jefferson, Buckeye righthander, who limited the champions to seven scattered hits.

The Buckeyes had previously defeated the Garys' 2-1, last Thursday, and 3-2, Sunday, in Cleveland, with the first game pitched by Welmaker. The Buckeyes scored first in the third when two hits and two errors combined to register three runs, which proved sufficient to win the contest. Buddy Armour, who had a perfect night with three hits for three, doubled in the ninth and scampered home on two putouts for the fourth run.

In the third Canizares walked and Ware grounded to Welmaker whose throw to second was too late, both runners being safe. Jethro attempted to sacrifice, and Welmaker forces Canizarese at third, then Woods hit to shortstop but Bankhead's throw in a try to force Jethroe at second was too late, leaving all runners safe and the bases loaded.

Grace then skied to Hoskins, in right, and the latter heaved to the place to catch Ware but the ball bounced out of Gibson's glove with Ware scoring without a play.

Jethroe went down to score a few seconds later as Gibson threw short to Bankhead to keep Woods on third Troupe as intentionally walked to load the bases, but Armour broke up the strategy by singling to tally Woods and Jethroe. The rally died when Cowan grounded to Battles, who forced Troupe at second for the third out.

This uprising left the Buckeyes in front 3-0 and thereafter the aspiring champions were invisible, fielding with flashy brilliance to keep the Grays at bay for the remaining innings.

Jefferson tamed the vaunted hitting power of the Grays with three hits, Bell's double in the first; Bozo Jackson's single in the fifth, and Benjamin's single in the eighth but neither went further than second base.

The Grays gained life in the ninth when Jud Wilson walked with two down, but Vic Harris, who pinch-hit for Jackson, flied out to Ware for the final putout.

—V—

Hillside Swamps Wilson 34 To 0

DURHAM — Hillside Park High School of Durham opened the interscholastic grid season in an impressive win over Darden High School of Wilson Friday night at El Toro Park in this city.

It was evident from the start that Darden was no match for the mighty Hillside Hornets who for the past several years under their now departed Coach Riddick, were perennial champions of the State. Hillside led by Springfield Johnson and Watson scored in each period of the game and could easily have run up a much larger score had not coach given each of his players a chance to get in the affair, so as to get a lineup of his potential strength; this being his first try at the old Autumn Classic as head man.

Darden never threatened to score and only once did they have the ball past midfield; as a result of a Hillside miscue. So completely were they outclassed that they did register only one first down. Durham held a 25-0 score at the half time.

This year's Hornets lacked the dash that has formerly characterized Riddick coached teams. Hillside struck to the turf which they could tear up against their weak opponent. Neither team did not seem to be air minded as there were no pass completions in several attempts.

A large crowd of spectators were on hand to open the season and along on the Hillside bench sat former Coach Riddick who watched his former charges with pleasure.

Hillside meets the Big Blues of Washington High in Durham on October 19 and again here in the capital city on November 9th.

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BEATING THE GUN

BY ALVIN MOSES
PEOPLE'S VOICE, JOE BOSTIC PART COMPANY

NEW YORK (ANP) — More than four years ago, a dynamic tabloid newspaper called "P.V." made its presence in darkest Harlem.

With the surge and fury of a forest fire it caught on with the bulk of the exploited dwellers of the region running from 59th Street upwards to 130rd Street. Dark and light-skinned Americans of color living by prescription in this — often called the world's most liberal city — welcomed People's Voice.

Two friends of mine were elected to hold positions of prominence with this flaming little sheet in its growing pages. An all-around journalist known to the trade as JLC (John Louis Clarke), and Joe (Morgan College) Bostic, a writer of sport subjects.

Covering the cabaret show at Murrains' a fortnight ago, we heard our name called by none other than genial Joseph Ford, the biggest name in Harlem political cricles. Ford is the man who created the political dynasty that succeeded in electing Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., to the present congress. Weeks ago Joe Ford took the district once presided over by Herbert Bruce despite the opinion of old-line politicians who said it couldn't be achieved.

A power in the affairs of the newspaper PV, Joe told me that Bostic had been given the usual two week's notice. Such are the ways of newspaper life. Men and women who choose it for their life's work will tell you that it never never gets out of your blood. You receive enough out of it (the overall picture) to keep body and soul together. Many fabricate and tell questioners their earnings run into fabulous figures. We go away from it swearing never to return. Years later, a trifle older, graying at the temples, we employ choice words in explaining our return. I imagine that Joe Bostic will not fade from the realm known as the fourth estate.

THE MELTING POT

Have you ever stopped to think over the fact that the real red-wine of life comes bottled up in the things real people say about us? In this connection I want to extend my deep thanks to JCL (John Louis Clarke) for the piece he did on me for "Color" the magazine which tells the news of the world in pictures (rotogravure section) and stories. Should my readers be interested in seeing how I looked 10 years ago and read some info on one of your favorite ANP commentators, hustle out and spend 15 cents for a copy, won'tcha?

To James (Joy) Johnston, white manager of Archie Moore, Cleveland 175 pound boxer, don't let that Jimmy Bivins defeat write quietus or finale to the chapter of one of the smoothest boxers I've ever laid my eyes on. . . . Archie Moore, right now, can whip most of the lightheavies and heavyweights in captivity. . . . Let him campaign among the toughies whom the main eventers steer clear of. . . . Enable him to blot out the Bivins (mis-match) thing from his memory. . . . Moore was classy enough to whip all the leading white and colored American and native boxers in Australia. . . . If you are tired of his contract, then put it on the block and I asure you bidders will come forth like the army of locusts who descended upon the ancient Egyptians.

On the calculations of most games (44) played this baseball season, mighty Josho (Home Run) Gibson, Homestead Grays, is the leading swatsmith of the National Negro league. . . . The final standing of the first five batters reveals Gibson, 393, representing 57 hits out of 145 at bats. . . . He also batted in 31 runs through the leader in that very important department was wide-shouldered Campanella, Baltimore Elite Giants-catcher-outfielder who banged in 36 markers. Harvey, Newark Eagles, as second with .389; Leonard, Homestead Grays, comes next with .375; Wright, Baltimore, .371; Gene Benson, stumpy, unsmiling outergardner of the Philly-Stars winds up the charmed circle with .370. . . . "Pepperpot" Austin, winner of the National League batting championship last season, batted .354 for 39 tilts a mighty respectable performance in any league company, we'd venture to say. . . . Homestead Grays won the league championship winning 32 while losing 13; Baltimore second, Newark third, Philly fourth.

Louis Awarded The Legion Of Merit By The Army

NEW YORK — Joe Louis, world's heavyweight champion — Technical Sergeant Joseph L. Barrow to the United States Army — was awarded the Legion of Merit recently in a ceremony on the Fort Hamilton parade grounds. The presentation was made by Major General Clarence Kells, commanding general of the New York Port of Embarkation.

The award was for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services, traveling in European, Mediterranean and North African theaters and volunteering his services to consiserable risk to his boxing future heavyweight champion of the world."

Louis now weighs 215, ten pounds above his best weight, he says. He expects to receive his discharge on October 1.

General Kells said: "Sergeant Barrow, since you have been assigned to the New York Port of Embarkation it is my firm opinion that you have made one of the greatest contributions of all in helping develop a reconditioning program for veterans returning from overseas."

After pinning the medal on Louis' chest General Kells continued, "A grateful government recognizes your outstanding performance of service. Your service record, sergeant, states that you showed yourself to be a model soldier in every respect."

Louis, standing at attention said: "Sir, I am grateful." saluted and, after an about face, marched back to his formation.

—V—

Little Blues Workingg Hard For First Game

RALEIGH — The Washington High School Little Blues under the watchful eye of Coach P. H. Williams have been getting rather stiff assignments in the last three weeks as they have been making preparations for their opening game with John R. Hawkin High School of Warrenton here at Chavis Park Field on Friday.

Practice at the School was late starting but the players have made up for this tardines during the long practice period. Coach Williams has changed the Blues style of play to the T because of the type of players he has this year. The players have brought smiles to the mentors as they worked with the Modified T formation.

The Little Blue, though hard hit by graduation and the draft with a loss of eight players from last year's number one team, which went through the season undefeated in seven games still will be one of the teams in the Eastern area to reckon with. Coach Williams will be well out in front with a forward wall with letter winners occuping each position paced by Co-captain A. Person at tackle, and last year's Co-captain Payne Peterson at one of the terminals. The backfield which has always had plenty of flash will be manned by letter winners but three who were on the number to club last season. The backfield will be paced by the Little Blues flash Captain Squirrel McGuire. Bookie Wilder understudy to Boo Haywood last season, is a sure bet for the quarterback spot Wilder is a triple threat. The number two backfield has given the coaches a headache however there are several promising candidates including Foots Lawson, Sam Pat McGuire and Lassiter. Otis Wall, who won his letter at guard last season has been moved to the backfield as an understudy to Jack Marsh and in practice drills has been pushing Marsh for the number one spot.

Local fans will get a chance to see the locals in their new uniforms of Gold and Blue. This will be perhaps one of the best dressed and best equipped teams to ever take the field at the Local School. The writer of this article can well recall the times when a player at the school that each player furnished much of his playing equipment, and blocking pads were something unheard of let alone eleven players dressed in the same type of uniform. The locals will be attired in Gold pants and blue jerseys with gold numerals and golden helments. Elephant cloth hoods have also been purchased for a traveling squad of twenty five players.

Following their home appearance the Blues will play Armstrong High in Richmond on October 6th.

SHAW BEARS REVIVE FOOTBALL WITH A 7 GAME SCHEDULE

RALEIGH — The Shaw Bear emerges from a two year period of dormacy decreed by wartime conditions to enter the football picture for the current season. The big bruins have scheduled seven games for the 1945 period with three to be played at Chavis Field here and the other four away.

Shaw supporters will look toward Durham for their Thanksgiving day football menu where the Bears will take on North Carolina College, their ancient grid rival. Other games away include, Bluefield State College, Bluefield, West Virginia, October 13; Morris Brown College, Atlanta, October 27; and Johnson C Smith University, Charlotte, November 17.

The opening game will be played at home, October 6, when the Shaw eleven takes on A. and T. College from Greensboro. Other games in Chavis field here will include, Howard University, October 20; and Virginia Union, Nov. 10.

—V—

Williams NBA Champ Loses To Angott

PITTSBURG (ANP) — Ike Williams, NBA lightweight champion, lost his scheduled 10-round fight with Sammy Angott, former lightweight champion, here Wednesday night at Forbes field by a technical knockout in one minute, one second of the sixth round.

Ike, who hails from Trenton, N. J. sustained a side injury in the first round. He winched in pain when he sat down. Angott, aware that he had hurt his opponent, followed through in the succeeding rounds with a relentless body attack. In the third, Sammy connected with a terrific left hook which shook Williams, who seemed to grimace and defend himself by mere instinct.

After a serie of hard, jerky blows, one of which was a sharp left that landed below Ike's heart, Referee "Red" Robinson stopped the fight. The Williams-Angott match was the feature attraction. Angott weighed 140 pounds and Williams 132.

A three-round exhibition between Cpl. Billy Conn and Al Patterson, a local fighter, was refereed by Heavyweight Champion Sgt. Joe Louis. The proceeds of the affair were donated to charity.

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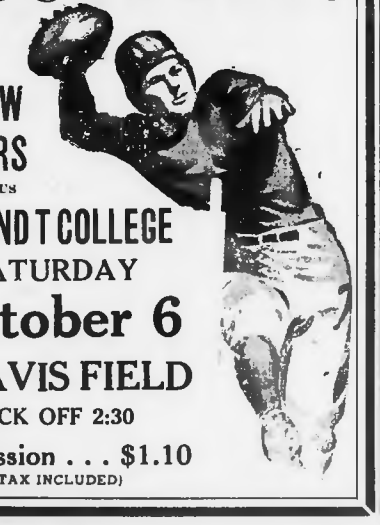
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ARNOLD BROTHERS SCORE KNOCKOUTS IN PHILADELPHIA

BY HAROLD G. MILLER

PHILADELPHIA Pa. (ANP) — Billy Arnold, 148, of Philadelphia, won his 33rd professional fight and scored his 30th knockout Monday night when he KO'ed Ray Rovelli of New York in one minute, 22 seconds of the first round.

Arnold had no trouble at all in dispatching Rovelli, a veteran of six years in the professional ring. The 19-year-old Philadelphia speeded with his opponent for a short time and then lashed out with a hard left hook to Revelli's jaw that sent him reeling from the center of the ring up against the ropes.

Arnold followed up his advantage and battered Rovelli with lights and lefts to the head until he went down on his haunches. He squatted on his heels until the referee, Charles Daggert, counted him out.

This was the second time that Rovelli had been matched with Billy Arnold, but it was the first time that they had ever actually met. Last spring Rovellio was supposed to fight here, but he failed to show up for the fight and the promoter was forced to move Billy's younger brother, Jetson, into the windup spot for his professional fight. As a result of his failure to show up Rovelli was suspended in New York and Pennsylvania, and was justly reinstated.

Fighting on the same card with his older brother, Jetson Arnold won his fourth professional fight in as many starts by a TKO in the fourth round over Baby Armstrong also of Philadelphia. This was the second time that the 128-pound Jetson had fought Armstrong, and both fights ended in the same manner.

Jetson displayed brilliant footwork and smart ringmanship to outbox, outpunch, and outslug Armstrong. In the third round he go Armstrong on the ropes and battered him unmercifully. The fourth round started out to be more of the same until the referee stopped the fight.

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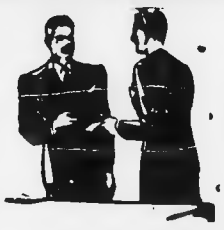
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