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2-2-1955

## Jackie Robinson to J.G. Taylor Spink telegram regarding criticism . February 2, 1955

Jackie Robinson  
*Brooklyn Dodgers*

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### Recommended Citation

Robinson, Jackie, "Jackie Robinson to J.G. Taylor Spink telegram regarding criticism . February 2, 1955" (1955). *The Spink Papers*. 1.  
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J G T SPINK

~~THE SPORTING NEWS 2012-18 WASHINGTON AF STL~~

DEAR MR. SPINK;

L IN REFERENCE TO YOUR "OPEN LETTER" TO ME IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE SPORTING NEWS, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I DO NOT, AS YOU IMPLY, "CONSIDER MYSELF IMMUNE TO ALL CRITICISM AS A PLAYER, SIMPLY BECAUSE OF MY RACE."

~~(STOP PARAGRAPH)~~

L I HAVE NOT AND NEVER WILL OBJECT TO THOUGHTFUL CRITICISM BASED ON FACTS. IN MY BIOGRAPHY IN THE CURRENT LOOK MAGAZINE -- TO WHICH THE SPORTING NEWS NOW SEEMS TO OBJECT -- I ADMIT THAT I'VE MADE LOTS OF MISTAKES. BUT THE MISTAKES WERE HONESTLY MADE AND I EXPECT ANY CRITICISM OF THEM TO BE THE SAME WAY -- AND DIRECTED AT ME AS AN INDIVIDUAL.

~~(STOP PARAGRAPH)~~

L IN YOUR OPEN LETTER TO ME YOU STATE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN UNABLE "TO FIND ANY TRACE" IN YOUR FILES OF A REFERENCE MADE BY ME IN LOOK TO THE SPORTING NEWS. YOU CHALLENGED ME TO "NAME THE SPECIFIC ISSUE IN WHICH THIS ALLEGED STATEMENT APPEARED, AS WELL AS EXACT AND COMPLETE WORDAGE" ~~AS~~

~~(STOP PARAGRAPH)~~

I SUGGEST THAT YOU LOOK MORE CLOSELY INTO YOUR FILES. IN PARTICULAR, PLEASE NOTE THE EDITORIAL ON PAGE 12 OF YOUR NOVEMBER 1, 1945, ISSUE, WHICH STATED: ~~(STOP PARAGRAPH)~~



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"ROBINSON AT 26, IS REPORTED TO POSSESS BASEBALL ABILITIES WHICH, WERE HE WHITE, WOULD MAKE HIM ELIGIBLE FOR A TRIAL WITH, LET US SAY, THE BROOKLYN DODGERS' CLASS B FARM AT NEWPORT NEWS, IF HE WERE SIX YEARS YOUNGER... (STOP. PARAGRAPH) ~~PAR~~

"HE IS THROWN INTO THE POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION OF BASEBALL, AND PLACED IN COMPETITION WITH A VAST NUMBER OF YOUNGER, MORE SKILLED AND MORE EXPERIENCED PLAYERS...THE FIRST FACTOR ALONE APPEARS LIKELY TO BEAT HIM DOWN." (STOP. PARAGRAPH)

~~SECRET~~  
SECRET

X X X

YOU STATE IN YOUR OPEN LETTER THAT MY "COUPLING" IN LOOK OF THE ABOVE QUOTED EDITORIAL WITH THE FACT THAT YOU PRESENTED ME WITH THE ~~1947~~ SPORTING NEWS ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD "IS A GRACELESS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AN HONEST AWARD, HONESTLY GIVEN AND A GRATUITOUS SLAP AT THE AWARD'S DONOR". (STOP. PARAGRAPH)

X X X +

I'M SORRY THAT A MISUNDERSTANDING SHOULD OCCUR BETWEEN US CONCERNING THE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD. IF YOU REMEMBER, I TOLD YOU BOTH IN BROOKLYN AND IN ST. LOUIS HOW HONORED I FELT UPON RECEIVING THE AWARD. NO MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US CAN LESSEN MY APPRECIATION OF THE HONOR AND SIGNIFICANCE ATTACHED TO IT. (STOP. PARAGRAPH)

FRANKLY, I DO NOT FEEL THAT I HAVE TAKEN A "GRATUITOUS SLAP AT THE DONOR" NOR DO I FEEL THAT I HAVE MADE ANY "GRACELESS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT" AT ANY TIME OF THE AWARD. (STOP. PARAGRAPH)

WARMEST REGARDS. SINCERELY.

JACKIE ROBINSON.

J M

P.S. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D ~~FOR~~ THE ABOVE LETTER WITH NO DELETIONS OR ADDITIONS. IT'S NOT NECESSARY, OF COURSE, TO PUBLIS THIS P.C. THE END

(00).

(547 PM FEB 2 '55)