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## Flood Called to Testify As Trust Trial Opens

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# Flood Called to Testify As Trust Trial Opens

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Curt Flood took the witness stand May 19 as the trial of his suit challenging baseball's reserve clause began in U. S. District Court.

Flood was called to testify after Judge Irving Ben Cooper denied a motion for dismissal of the suit by baseball attorneys. They sought dismissal on grounds the court lacked jurisdiction in the matter.

Seated in the courtroom as the trial began were Commissioner Bowie Kuhn, American League President Joe Cronin and National League President Chub Feeney.

Flood was called to the stand by his attorney, Arthur Goldberg, a former Supreme Court Justice.

Under direct examination by Goldberg, Flood testified that his last salary with the Cardinals was \$90,000. He also described events advising him of his trade to the Phillies last October 8.

The 32-year-old outfielder, veteran of 12 major league seasons, is attempting to overturn a 1922 Supreme Court ruling that baseball has exemption from the antitrust laws. He seeks \$3,000,000 in damages.

Baseball maintains that the reserve clause is necessary for the preservation of the game.

MAY 30 1970

## More Problems Around the Corner

The Flood case is one of a series of off-the-field problems facing the game.

As Judge Cooper started hearing testimony in the Flood case, the Major League Players Association and the club owners still were trying to negotiate a settlement of their basic agreement.

And a suit filed by two former American League umpires, Al Salerno and Bill Valentine, was expected to reach the Second Circuit Court of Appeals late in May.

Salerno and Valentine went to court after they were fired for alleged incompetence in 1968. They lost in U. S. District Court, but filed an appeal.

Baseball also is facing an \$82,000,000 suit by the City of Seattle and the State of Washington as the result of the transfer of the Seattle franchise to Milwaukee shortly before the 1970 season opened.

The trial of the Flood case was expected to last about two weeks. And Judge Cooper's verdict is almost certain to be appealed. Eventually, the case is expected to reach the Supreme Court.