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The Spink Papers

The Sporting News Collection

5-3-1945

United Press story about integration in baseball, with comments from Tom Swope to J.G. Taylor Spink. May 3, 1945

Walter Byers

Tom Swope

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Logo

Taylor-This is a carbon of a yarn which cleared UP into our
HX18B office yesterday before noon. I understand the nigger question was
put to him by a representative of the Chicago Defender, a nigger paper.
1ST LEAD CHANDLER He should have said: "That's something I'll have
to go into later when I've had time to give it consideration." Instead
BY WALTER BYERS he let himself be quoted at length.
Not so good---Tom Swope

UNITED PRESS STAFF CORRESPONDENT

CHICAGO, MAY 3--(UP)--SEN. A. B. (HAPPY) CHANDLER, BASEBALL'S
NEW COMMISSIONER, SAID TODAY HE BELIEVED THAT NEGROES SHOULD HAVE A
CHANCE "LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE" TO PLAY MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL.

"THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE YET TO BE WORKED OUT," HE SAID, "BUT I BELIEVE
THAT THIS IS A FREE COUNTRY AND EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO
PLAY ITS FAVORITE PASTIME."

THE KENTUCKY SENATOR, WHO WAS NAMED TO BASEBALL'S HIGHEST POST ONLY
NINE DAYS AGO, ARRIVED TODAY FROM ST. LOUIS, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE.
HIS REMARKS WERE IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS ABOUT A RESOLUTION INTRODUCED
IN CONGRESS WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO
INVESTIGATE ALLEGED RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES.

CHANDLER SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE ALLEGED DISCRIMI-
NATIONS, BUT THAT HE WAS SURE THERE WAS ROOM FOR COLORED BASEBALL
PLAYERS IN THE BIG LEAGUES.

"THIS MATTER WILL TAKE A LOT OF GOOD THOUGHT," HE SAID, "BUT
IN TIME IT'S BOUND TO WORK."

"NEGRO BASEBALL OFFICIALS AND PLAYERS DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY
WANT AT PRESENT," CHANDLER SAID. "THEY MAY WANT TO PLAY IN THEIR OWN
LEAGUES AND THEN MEET THE MAJOR LEAGUE CHAMPION IN A PLAY-OFF GAME.
MANY NEGRO BASEBALL PLAYERS MAKE MORE MONEY PLAYING IN THEIR OWN LEAGUES
THAN MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYERS DO."

MORE D0950A

HX19B

ADD 1ST LEAD CHANDLER CHICAGO (BYERS) XXX DO.

"AT PRESENT, IT'S TOO INDEFINITE TO KNOW WHAT THE DESIRES ARE OF
BOTH PARTIES. CONFERENCES MUST BE HELD. THERE ARE REASONABLE MEN
IN BASEBALL AND THE WAYS AND MEANS OF BRINGING THIS ABOUT MUST BE
WORKED OUT BY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MAJOR LEAGUE OWNERS AND NEGRO LEADERS."

CHANDLER SAID THAT HE HAD HOPED TO ASSUME HIS DUTIES AS COMMISSIONER
JULY 1, BUT THAT IT MAY BE LATER BECAUSE OF SENATORIAL BUSINESS.

HE SAID HE PROBABLY WOULD MOVE THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE TO
CINCINNATI.

"THE OFFICE FOLLOWS THE COMMISSIONER," HE SAID. "AND I BELIEVE THAT
IT WILL BE IN CINCINNATI."

(PICKUP EARLY AT 2ND PGH: DURING CHANDLER'S, ETC.)

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