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Reserve Change Could Aid Management, Veeck Says

By LEONARD KOPPETT

NEW YORK, N. Y.—With testimony from Bill Veeck that changes in the reserve clause could be made without harm to the successful operation of baseball, the open trial phase of Curt Flood's anti-trust suit ended June 10 in Federal Court here.

Lawyers for both sides were given until July 6 to submit their final briefs summing up their arguments, and until July 13 to answer each other's final pleas. Then Judge Irving Ben Cooper, who heard the case without a jury will weigh the 2,000 pages of testimony, the two-dozen documents submitted as evidence and the legal and factual arguments made before arriving at a decision a few weeks later.

Since it is expected that his decision will be appealed, no matter what it is, the case is likely to drag on another couple of years unless it is dropped in favor of an out-of-court settlement. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals, which is the next step up, has such a backlog of cases in New York that the

average waiting time is 33 months, and even if this case were expedited, it is unlikely that it would reach the U. S. Supreme Court before 1972.

Two Hours of Testimony

Veeck, who was on the stand for two hours, got his usual quota of laughs, but essentially gave serious and polite testimony. He said that changes in the reserve system might benefit management rather than hurt it, since it could lead to improved relations with the players.

The essential features of player control and the return on investment in player development could be worked out, Veeck said, by the use of long-term contracts and the calculation of the exact investment in every particular player.

Now president of Suffolk Downs race track in Boston, Veeck has been out of baseball since 1961.

He testified that he had only \$11 when he purchased his first club, the Milwaukee Brewers of the American Association in 1941, and

that he left baseball with a net worth of about \$1 million.

His Cleveland and Chicago operations resulted in pennants and profits, but he said that even his ownership of the St. Louis Browns ended in the black because of the sale of the franchise to Baltimore, although as an actual operation in St. Louis it lost money.

He said complete and sudden elimination of the reserve system would cause chaos, but that a gradual and orderly change to a substitute system would not hurt. He acknowledged that owners fear that, with any sort of choice on the part of the players, all the best players would gravitate to a few wealthy teams, but he said he did not believe that would happen.

Revision of the system, he said, would help baseball's reputation by ending a system of human bondage, but would not affect the level of play on the field.

(Continued on Page 30, Column 3)

name, Finis. How come?

Ted's grandma had wanted five children, no more and no less, so she named his father "Finis" because he was No. 5.

The catch was that she had one more child, anyhow.

Redbird Chirps: Santiago Guzman, a hard-throwing righthander who had trouble getting going in brief chances, was sent down to Tulsa for the second time this season. When the Cardinals arrived in San Francisco June 12, Guzman had lost his suitcase, too. It was missing since the club arrived in Los Angeles June 8 for the start of an 18-game, 18-day trip, their longest since 1964.

Chuck Taylor enjoyed back-to-back victories June 9-10. The first night he made his first start of the season after 21 relief stints and blanked the Dodgers, 4-0. The next night he upset L. A.'s Jim Brewer in a pre-game cow-milking contest. Andy Martin, assistant manager of the Biltmore Hotel (the Redbirds' home in Los Angeles), rewarded Taylor with two steak dinners for his shutout, and bullpen catcher Bart Zeller shared the meal prize. . . . Lou Brock's hitting streak was stopped at 13 games by the Dodgers June 11. . . . Wildness continued to plague Mike Torrez. Of the 34 runs he gave up through June 12, no fewer than 16 were the direct result of walks and hit batsmen.