



By MARK QUEEN

POLITICS MAKES FOR strange bed-fellows, they say. But when they try to inject sports into politics in support of racial discord, the proposition becomes downright ludicrous, if not ominous!

For instance, take the efforts of white segregationists to build up that notorious black segregationist, Cassius X Marcellus Clay Muhammad Ali, in his own self-proclaimed image as "the greatest".

It's really "gettin' to be somethin'" when Sen. Dick Russell of Georgia takes times out from spear-heading opposition to the civil rights bill to get up on the Senate floor and extol the great "I Am" for his Black Muslim views. But Massa Dick just about hoisted himself by his own petard (meaning that he was fit to be blown up by his own bomb) when he offered an analogy between the modern Cassius and the colorful character of Civil War days from whom the alleged heavyweight champion derived his (former) name.

"There never has been a more heroic character, or more romantic one, than the original Cassius Clay, a cousin of Henry Clay from Kentucky," Russell intoned during his eulogy of the modern Cassius.

AT THIS POINT, Sen. Phil Hart of Michigan, the same who has been conducting hearings on the smelly Clay-Sonny Liston thing, broke in with, "As I understand it, Senator, the original Mr. Clay was a staunch abolitionist."

Never at a loss for words, even during an embarrassing moment, Massa Dick was forced to admit that the original Cassius Clay was, indeed, a practicing abolitionist.

"You are indubitably right, suh," confirmed Russell. "Mr. Clay was an abolitionist. He came home from Yale (Ed. note: Apparently contaminated by Yankee heresies) and being the only millionaire in Kentucky, promptly freed about 40 slaves."

In view of Russell's flamboyant defense of the modern Cassius, it wouldn't surprise us at all if the next subject for one of Massa Dick's eulogies isn't Brother

Malcolm X, that great advocate of bloody rebellion.

AND TALKING ABOUT Cassius with the feet of Clay, we understand that the Egyptian government has offered the Louisville Lip an annual salary of \$100,000 to supervise a youth recreation center in Cairo which would be named in his honor.

In announcing the offer, Cassius said he is considering retiring from the ring to accept it. Personally, we think that's a swell idea. We only hope he doesn't have to pass some sort of civil service test harder than final exams for the third grade to get the job.

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It has been 17 years since Jackie Robinson, aided and abetted by Branch Rickey, smashed down the color barrier in major league baseball to start a career with the Brooklyn Dodgers that stood the National League on its figurative head. One year later, the American League threw open the gates to Negro players by converting second-baseman Larry Doby into a fine outfielder.

A glance at the roster of just about any big league club today attests to how far the Negro has come since then in the national pastime.

IT NOW LOOKS like another great breakthrough is about to be made in the sports world. Two major colleges in the south have Negro football players on their rosters for spring training this year following the example of the University of Maryland, which broke the ice last year with Darryl Hill.



JOINS PAPER-- Don Clark (left), former Ohio State All-American and Canadian pro football star, is welcomed to staff of Akron Beacon Journal as district manager of carrier boys by William Aylward, circulation director.

Support The Boys Club

The University of Kentucky, which earlier had announced its intention to use Negro athletes, has Steve Matthews, a Negro transfer student from Detroit, working out with the football squad. And Wake Forest College, at Winston-Salem, N.C., has awarded a football scholarship to Kenneth (Butch) Henry, a 185-pound quarterback from Greensboro, Nc.

Hill paved the way in the Atlantic Coast Conference last year so the signing of Henry by Wake Forest, also a member of the ACC, is not expected to produce any scheduling difficulties for the North Carolina school.

Kentucky, however, is up against a tougher proposition if Matthews survives the pre-season squad cuts because the Southern Conference school has such rigidly segregated opponents as Mississippi and Louisiana State on its schedule.

But the ball is rolling and we predict that it will not be long before the race barrier in college football is a thing of the past.

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