



sports round-up

WHEN GOV. PEABODY of Massachusetts gave his blessing to the heavyweight title fight rematch between Cassius (Mohammad Ali) Clay and Sonny (Sitdown Striker) Liston, some wag remarked, "I guess the governor figured that was the best way to get back at the voters for not renominating him."

As this is written, it is not clear whether Chairman Herman Greenberg of the Massachusetts Athletic Commission and his fellow commissioners were "ordered" to sanction the fight for Boston "or else." We do know that Greenberg went along with the majority when the World Boxing Association voted 27-2 (Kentucky and Michigan dissenting) against approving the rematch until Liston "proved" himself a worthy challenger by knocking off another top contender.

It also occurs to us that Greenberg must have impressed new WBA president Merv McKenzie of Toronto with his apparent wholehearted support of WBA policy in regard to the Clay-Liston situation or McKenzie would not have appointed him chairman of the important WBA World Championships Committee, which is charged with examining disputes concerning world titles.

We also know that plenty of pressure was exerted on our own Nevada State Athletic Commission to approve the fight for Las Vegas. And despite our own mixed feelings as to whether the show would benefit the community or hurt it, we feel sure that the commission acted in the best interests of Nevada in supporting WBA

LAS VEGAS Voice

SECOND SECTION



CHASED CHAMPS TO WIRE--This is Las Vegas Merchants baseball team that was runnerup to Las Vegas Mavericks in MBA Adult League competition during past season. Front (from left) Clifton Hicks, Sylvester Rogers, Dorothy Watkins, James Allen, Herman Newsom and Hubert Andrews; middle row (from left) A. C. Johnson, John Murray, Phillip Ferdinand, Jesse Williams and Adell Williams; rear (from left) Iberville Carter, Sammy Brandon, Art DeVore, manager, and LeRoy Turner. RICK REYNOLDS PHOTO

policy as overwhelmingly expressed at the recent Norfolk convention.

In this regard, we also commend Gov. Grant Sawyer for supporting his commission by taking a "hands-off" attitude toward its deliberations after the "hear" was applied in Carson City.

When you get right down to it, Intercontinental Promotions, Inc., has only itself to blame for making it virtually impossible for the Nevada commission--or any other honorable commission, for that matter--to approve the rematch. When Intercontinental was negotiating to place the first Clay-Liston fight in Las Vegas, the firm's legal advisor assured the Nevada commission that there were no contracts or agreements of any kind calling for a rematch under any circumstances. This later proved to be a bare-faced lie.

Anyone familiar with the transcript of the Senate hearings on the first fight also must realize that there were many other aspects of that fiasco which left much to be desired and created an unfavorable environment in regard

to the rematch.

As far as the rematch itself is concerned, it should be a huge financial success. Those who were the first to cry "fake" after the unsatisfactory ending of the Miami Beach fight will be the first to buy tickets for the Boston fight--either at the Garden or for the closed circuit TV presentation in their home towns. Personally, we wouldn't miss it at any price within reason.

And although the WBA should follow its hand and arrange for an elimination tournament for the "vacant" title, the winner at Boston will still be recognized by the fan in the street as the world heavyweight champion.

That's the way it's got to be.

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