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LAS VEGAS VOICE

Thursday, August 31, 1972

## **Travel Club**

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**A LINE ON** By ELBURT MILLER

Leverage, the dictionary says, is "positional advantage; power to act effectively." Stock-Market operators have used leverage for years, borrowing money to increase their capacity to buy common stocks. Corporations exert leverage on their earning by issuing bonds and other forms of debt obligations. Until recent years, most pro athletes probably employed leverage only with a tire iron when fixing a flat. Their horizons have widened, however. Now they have leverage at the bargaining table, and they know how to use it - or their agents do, to put it more accurately. The arrival of strong players unions and the birth of new leagues have changed the name of the game. Unionized players obtain attractive fringe benefits. Individual athletes weigh bids for the services.

Some of the recently published amounts supposedly accruing to league - bolting hockey players are awesome, even when deflated to allow for inevitable exaggeration. Bobby Hull is alleged to have signed a \$2.75 millon con-tract with Winnipeg of the World Hockey As-sociation. Derek Sanderson's agreement with Philadelphia of the WHA is said to be worth over \$2 million to Derek.

The Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball Association reputedly will pay Jerry West \$300,000 next season. Elvin Hayes, recently traded by Houston to Baltimore in an NBA transaction, immediately demanded an upgrading of his \$1,073,500 contract covering 10 years. Citing fraud, Elvin apparently won his points from a docile management. The Bullets caved in forthwith. Even more significant than a few individual cases was NBA Commissioner Walter Kennedy's recent statement that the "average cash payment, not deferred payment, is now around \$60,000 a year for NBA players" that's leverage on a grand scale. Hefty depreciation allowances on players contracts possibly against income from non-sport ventures, are one of the chief reasons promoters confidently boost their bids for so called name athletes. TV contracts, or expectations of same, are another important factor. In the case of hockey, quick acceptance of the product in new markets has enticed more operators into the field. Per-haps all will succeed beyond their wildest dreams. Then again, maybe both ultra generous managements and instant-rich athelets should consult a few veteran stock market players. The new-breed club owners might discover that nothing grows to the sky, and the millionaire athletes might find out that leverage works two ways - up and down.

Emmett Ashford, the first Black umpire in the Majors, came out of retirement briefly last week and worked one of the longest inning of his career. In Hawaii for a visit Ashford consented to call balls and strikes in a seriesclosing game between Hawaii and Tacoma. The first inning lasted 45 minutes, with starting pitchers Dennis Prbant of the Islanders and Mark Wiley of the Twins each failing to retire a batter before being relieved.

"I thought the innings would never end and was beginning to wonder what I had gotten myself into," said Ashford after the game. Hawaii eventually won the game, 9-5, and Ashford went back into retirement.

Ten years ago, boxer Eddie Machen reflected to a reporter, "After seven years as a professional fighter, not bad years on the record, "I'm not where I aimed to be. Far from it. I've had so much heartache and dashed hopes that I sincerely wonder if my teachers were right." Machen's teachers in his hometown of Redding, Calif., used to tell him, "Eddie if you try-and keep trying-you'll get to the top. Never quit and you'll never be disappointed." Those words now serve as Machen's eulogy. Coroner's deputies said Machen fell or jumped from his second-floor apartment. Machen lived 40 years striving to make it "to the top" of the boxing world. He never made it. After his defeat to Ingemar Johansson in 1958, Machen said, "Everything's closing in." He said he was

running out of money for his wife, Charlotte, and his three children, and when the strain reached its peak he attempted suicide on a lonely

## **Nat'l Park Service Closure** Order

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as Acting Superintendent of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, National Park Service, Ihereby declare that portion of the Eastern end of Lake Mead lying in a line drawn from Hemenway Harbor to the Southern most island of the Boulder Island group, and from said island to mid-point of the wall below Promontory Ridge to be closed to all boat traffic, except official craft, in advance of and during the running of the race sponsored by the Las Vegas Ski and Boat Club.

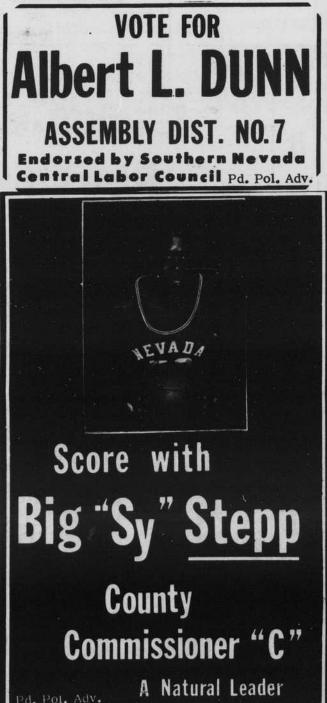
The area to be closed in the interest of public safety is indicated by the crosshatched section on the drawing below.

Times during which this closure will be in

effect are indicated below: Saturday September 9, 1972, Sunrise to Sunset Sunday September 10, 1972, Sunrise to Sunset (Authority for Closure: Section 3.15(c), Chapter 1, Title 36, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Revised January 1, 1972.)

highway. His fighting record was 50-11-3 with 27 knockouts.

K. C. Jones, former Boston Celtic backcourt ace known for his fierce defensive game and more recently as the assistant coach of the Los Angeles Lakers, has accepted the post of head coach of the San Diego Conquistadors, a New American Basketball Assn. admittedly, Jones' said he knows little about the ABA and said he will rely heavily on the assistance of Alex Groza, who will become the new squad's general manager. It is significant that K. C. Jones became the second Black head coach in professional basketball only preceded by his teammate Bill Russell.



Las Vegas Travel Club will be traveling to see such football games as Arizona State Conference Openers, U.C.L.A - vs. U.S.C., U.N.L.V. - vs. Wolf Pack, L.A. Rams - vs. 49 ers, and many others.

