

May 20, 1957.

Mr. Braven Dyer, Sports Parade,
Los Angeles Times,
Los Angeles 53, Calif.

My dear Braven:

Your column of the 15th is a serious one and my concern over it is great. I would not like this letter and my thoughts to be published at this time. Be good enough to let me have anything further you have on the suitability of the Coliseum for baseball. On my last trip to Los Angeles I, of course, limited myself to saying that the Coliseum in my opinion, was suitable for exhibition games. This statement when it appeared in print in some papers omitted the words "for exhibition games" and the pickup here in New York indicated that I said the Coliseum was suitable for major league baseball. Actually, it is not as you have so well pointed out.

I am sure it will take two full years to build a fine, modern stadium. If work were to start early in 1958, it would mean that a franchise shift would have to be postponed until the 1960 season unless a make-shift arrangement could be used. One possibility contemplates shuttling between Wrigley Field and the Coliseum. I am afraid that the lights at Wrigley Field are not suitable for major league ball and I am also concerned over the fact that there are no ladies rest rooms on the upper level of Wrigley Field. Parking is at a minimum. With 15,000 people in the stands my observers told me that automobiles circled for half hour around game time only to drive away when they could not find a place for their cars. Attendance would have to average considerably higher than 15,000 per game in order to make it economically possible to operate in that territory as there will be additional expenses as the other clubs would have to travel to the Coast and there is, of course the question of some damages to the Pacific Coast League. If for these reasons we eliminate Wrigley Field that leaves only the Coliseum and if you are correct in your views then that, too, would have to be eliminated thus killing any chance of major league ball coming to Los Angeles before 1960. I have been giving some consideration of the possibility that the games could be played in the Coliseum under less than desirable conditions providing that construction of a new ball park was actually under way at the same time so that the public would know they were putting up with a temporary inconvenience. This observation would have to apply to the other clubs in the league as well or they would not tolerate an indefinite use of substandard and "illegal" facilities.

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