

In order to clarify the college amateur baseball rules, but not to open up old wounds, we quote High Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis as follows: "Secret baseball contracts, the kind in which a college baseball player usually gets financial assistance for promising to join the paying club after graduation, are legally worthless." Says Judge Landis, "Players publicly receiving such financial aid either directly or by their parents, customarily are declared ineligible for further college competition as was Lou Bodreau, now manager of the Cleveland Indians by the University of Illinois." Judge Landis pointed out that sub-rosa pacts made it impossible for his office to check the number of players controlled by the professional clubs and often enabled those clubs to violate the player limit.

Reference is made to the incident concerning Athletic Director and head baseball coach, Lawrence "Jap" Haskell and Lawrence Layton, former Wichita, Kansas, North High School baseball star, both of the University of Oklahoma, in which it is alleged that Layton has such a sub-rosa contract with the Boston Red Sox. It is also alleged that Haskell is in the employ of the Boston Red Sox as a baseball scout in addition to his duties at the University of Oklahoma.

Landis made the ruling in a case involving Anthony Rarick and the New York Yankees of the American League. The Commissioner said there had been suggestions that such secret documents as the scout's agreement to pay Rarick \$1000.00 for his promise to sign a Yankee farm contract upon graduation be filed confidentially with his office to enable the student to continue his college career. "That, of course, is inconceivable," Landis added, "as it would include the entire baseball organization in the false pretense, in which the player and the club have engaged, that the player is honestly complying with college athletic eligibility rules, which in fact, are being deliberately violated." "The obvious impropriety of that situation is in no wise diminished by the fact that college athletic officials often are fully cognizant of that violation and are participants in them."

The high commissioner declared that in the future clubs and affiliates which signed undergraduates to secret contracts would be fined.

Herb Pennock of the Boston Red Sox denied that Lester Layton had been signed by the Red Sox. It is pointed out that Jimmy Strong, a star pitcher from Wichita, Kansas, North High, attended the University of Oklahoma two years ago and after one year there signed a Boston Red Sox farm contract. Other Oklahoma athletes signing a Boston Red Sox