

Zablocki Plans Legislation

House Bill Would Strip Baseball of Exemption

Associated Press

Rep. Clement J. Zablocki (D-Wis.) said last night he will introduce legislation to strip organized professional baseball of its present exemption from the Nation's antitrust laws.

Zablocki and other members of Congress from Wisconsin were strongly opposed to the move of the Milwaukee Braves to Atlanta, which came in spite of efforts by the state of Wisconsin to prevent the transfer.

"Now that the Supreme Court has refused to review the adverse decision in the Braves case," Zablocki said in a statement, "new legislation appears to be almost the only hope of breaking the arbitrary power of baseball owners and restoring the game to the fans."

Similar legislation was introduced by Zablocki at the beginning of the 89th Congress. The bill was sent to the House Judiciary Committee, which took no action.

Stating he is hopeful of action on his proposal in the 90th Congress, Zablocki said he believes there is growing pub-

lic and Congressional opinion that baseball's "high-handed flaunting of the public interest must be stopped."

Passage of his bill, Zablocki said, would not mean return of the Braves to Milwaukee. However, he said he believes it would expedite the formation of a new major league or rapid expansion of the present leagues.

If baseball is stripped of its present exemption from antitrust laws, he said, it is probable that features of the present system, such as territorial agreements and the reserve clause binding a player to one team until he is sold or released, would be struck down