

COPY

MAIN 5-1240

WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY
OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

124 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201, U.S.A.

CABLE WATCHTOWER

May 25, 1967

Mr. Sidney Scarborough
Atlanta Stadium
Atlanta, Georgia 30312

Dear Mr. Scarborough:

The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., (Jehovah's Witnesses) are interested in arranging for a convention in Atlanta, Georgia, July 6 through July 13, 1969. We would need at least two days of ingress and one day for egress. So the dates that we would require are July 4 through July 14, 1969, if we were to have our convention in Atlanta.

I fully appreciate that in order to make arrangements to use the Atlanta Stadium things must be worked out with the baseball schedule first, but very likely if you speak with the officials in the National League to clear these dates they may do so. However, before this would be done there are a few questions that you may be able to answer. If you think it is better for me to see you personally then I could fly to Atlanta to discuss the whole matter with you and at the same time see the stadium and the facilities.

What the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, (Jehovah's Witnesses), would like to do in 1969 is have another international assembly in the United States. There is no place in the United States that is large enough to hold all of Jehovah's witnesses in one place. So we have to have the convention in sections and we hope to have an eastern section convention July 6 through July 13, from Sunday to Sunday inclusive, in the summer of 1969. We would like to have a convention at Yankee Stadium in New York and in Atlanta, Georgia on the same dates. This would handle the eastern part of the United States.

The following week we would like to arrange for conventions in Chicago and St. Louis, to be held simultaneously, and this would involve July 13 through July 20. From there we would go to the West Coast to Anaheim, July 20 to July 27. It is our plan to use five different ball parks during this three-week period.

I am currently working with the American League and with Mr. Joseph Cronin, its president, so as to try and clear the

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dates for Yankee Stadium, Comiskey Park and Anaheim Stadium. Of course, I can do the same, if necessary, with the National League, with its president Mr. Warren C. Giles. At the time I know whether the Atlanta Stadium will be available and you would want us to use your stadium during the above-mentioned dates, I could follow through with contacting Mr. Giles. I have spoken to Mr. Glennon J. Walsh, Director of Operations for the Civic Center Busch Memorial Stadium, and he is quite agreeable to renting the stadium to us if we can clear it with the National League.

Are you willing to rent the Atlanta Stadium to the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., for these eight days with at least two days for ingress and one day for egress, so that we can get things set up and then dismantled? What would your rental fee be?

Would you also let us know who handles the concessions at the stadium, because the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society usually operates its own cafeteria and refreshment stands, as well as handling all of the parking. We want agreement for all of the facilities available.

To give you an example, at Yankee Stadium in New York city we arrange with the concessionaire through the management of the stadium to take over all of their facilities and to operate them with our volunteer help, all of whom are very experienced. We have handled large conventions for many years, but it may be that you are not acquainted with us. That is why I would be very happy to fly to Atlanta sometime early in June, if you would give me the choice of a few dates as to when you would be available, and then we would speak about this matter. Maybe we could come to some agreement and you could get a better picture of what the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is and what we would like to do.

Now that you know the dates we would like to have I am sure something could be done to arrange the 1969 baseball schedule. We anticipate that we would bring between 40,000 and 45,000 people to Atlanta and that very likely we would have that many in attendance at our closing session, the eighth day of the convention. That will give you some estimate of the crowd that we expect. Whatever price you would give us for the stadium we would want to include parking facilities that you have, and stadium concessions. We have worked out these matters satisfactorily with all other stadiums, and I am

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confident that it can be worked out with the Atlanta Stadium.

We would very much like to include Atlanta, Georgia in our setup for the international assembly of Jehovah's witnesses in the United States in July of 1969 and would be very happy to hear from you. If you would like to discuss this more thoroughly, which I feel is advisable, please let me know and I will be happy to come to Atlanta to speak with you. I think that is a much better way to handle the matter. I would be pleased if you could let me know soon just what might be done.

Sincerely yours,



N. H. Knorr
President

NHK/AG/AE