



2-1976

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## Recommended Citation

Labash, Nick, "The Giants Will Stay - Now What?" (1976). *Mayor Moscone*. 26.  
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# Out of the Fog The Giants Will Stay—Now What?

by NICK LABASH

Well, it appears that there is a Santa Claus in this vast land, after all. He came a little late, but just in time to save the Giant's baseball franchise from being taken from the friendly confines of the Bay Area, U.S.A., and deported to Toronto, Canada.

There were plenty of helpers who prevented this disaster. (Yes, it is a disaster when one of the most prominent cities on the face of the earth cannot house a baseball franchise.) Most notable, and one of the men who worked the hardest, was George Moscone, newly elected Mayor of San Francisco.

Moscone — who had barely been sworn in — was making his presence felt early. He flew to Phoenix last month to attend a meeting of baseball owners with two firm offers that equalled that of the Toronto group, headed by Labatt's Breweries.

There was also City Attorney Thomas O'Connor, who issued the temporary restraining order on the proposed move that gave the city enough time to iron out the problems and come up with interested buyers.

And, of course, the men themselves, Robert Short, one time owner of the old Washington Senators, and Robert Lurie of San Francisco. It was Mayor Moscone who convinced these two gentlemen to join forces on the deal as equal partners.

It would appear that with two men in charge, the Giants have a chance to operate under a full head of steam for a change instead of having to sell players to pay the bills.

In this case at least, two heads are better than one, as both men have expressed that they have the needed capital to purchase the team as well as funds to keep it operable.

The next step is for the National Exhibition Company, parent company of the Giants, to accept the offer. And, then, of course, the consent of at least nine National League owners.

It would appear that there isn't much of a problem here. Moving a franchise represents failure in most cases, and if that can

be avoided, it would seem that the logical thing to do is accept the offer and get on with more important things.

Like hiring a manager.

Just because it looks as though the Giants will remain, is no reason to assume that attendance will improve or the quality of play will change. The Toronto group, still hopeful of luring the Giants away, were the first to point that out.

Don McDougall, President of Labatt's Breweries, has said that changing ownership is not going to put people in the ballpark or pay the bills. The truth of it is, he is exactly right.

Therefore it is important that when selecting a manager the new owners make a positive step in the right direction and not hire another lackey out of the Wes Westrum, Charlie Fox, Herman Franks, Clyde King mold. You could line all four of them up on any given street corner in The City and I would venture to say that very few people could pick out one from the other, save their mothers.

In fact, one game we were attending several years ago when King was managing, and moving out to the mound to make a pitching change, a fan yelled "go back to the dugout Franks, you bum."

Certainly all the people with imagination and character are not in Hollywood. Actually the Giants, or Horace Stoneham, to put things in proper perspective, let a real contender for manager, Jim Davenport, slip right out of the organization.

The one-time Giant third-base star had proved his ability as a manager in the Giant's farm system. He is also a name that old Giant fans will surely remember as a link with the glory days of the local nine.

They draft favorite sons for president, so why not for manager of a baseball franchise that needs help. Sure, it is a great day for the City of San Francisco that the Giants are staying.

But on the same token, let us hope that the shortsighted, neglecting, inept regime of Horace Stoneham is long gone.