

says the national commission will not yield an inch to the fraternity.

That's the situation, as far as any one on the outside knows. Any predictions made today are guesses only.

The biggest feature of Johnson's rather wordy answer to the players was a threat to fine all players who strike, refuse to pay them for time lost, and close the A. L. parks and keep them closed the rest of the season if necessary.

Would the league allow Johnson to go so far as to close the parks?

Undoubtedly, and jump at the excuse to do so, if it is possible to make the public believe that the players are responsible for the failure to provide entertainment.

It would be a great piece of business luck for the magnates. Few of them are making money at the present time. In some cities Federal teams have cut into the patronage. In others there are purely local causes for the attendance slump. But the slump is there.

By closing the parks the magnates would not take in any coin at the gate. But neither would they have to pay out anything in expenses.

Which would mean a plugging of the leak in several treasuries.

Johnson has the American magnates meeting in war council with him in New York today. They will canvass the situation carefully, and come to a decision.

On the say of one man depends the result. That man is President Comiskey of the White Sox. Commy is never given to much conversation, but he is a power in the league, and does not hesitate to put his foot down when he thinks Johnson is wrong.

If Commy decides to support Ban, then the A. L. executive will have a free reign. But Comiskey has always been noted as a fair man to his athletes, and if he thinks an attempt is being made to put something over he is liable to balk at any summary action.

Fultz seems to have taken the

magnates by surprise. The fraternity held its meeting in New York Sunday and drafted a plan of campaign. The ultimatum came unexpectedly, and found the owners unprepared.

The case of Kraft is the immediate cause of a break. But Fultz asserts that in numerous instances the so-called "Cincinnati agreement," reached at a conference of magnates and players' representatives last year, has been flagrantly violated. He claims to have made frequent demands for redress in behalf of some of the slighted athletes, but in no case received any satisfaction.

The side to which the public swings will win. If the fans decide that the players have a just grievance, the magnates will not get far with their proposition to close the parks. If the fans decide that the players are acting hastily, they will take the closing of the parks gracefully.

An affair such as this promises to be as has been in the air for some time. It began with the formation of the fraternity. Fultz, at its head, is an old ballplayer, and also a clever lawyer. The magnates found they were up against a difficult proposition when it came to doing business with him. He could discover the joker in a contract.

Johnson has been trying to get rid of Fultz for some time. He refused for a time to receive the president of the fraternity in Cincinnati. Ban knew that the lawyer-athlete was a keen one.

Apparently the players considered that this was the psychological moment to act. The Federal has not waned in popularity, and any of the athletes who strike and want to jump will probably find positions with the third circuit.

And if the A. L. closes its parks, the players can barnstorm with slight opposition, and make as much money as they get now.

Fultz unquestionably has the backing of the majority of the players of both leagues. Representatives of