



# MINNESOTA TWINS BASEBALL CLUB

EXECUTIVE OFFICES   ◆   PHONE: 854-4040   ◆   TICKET OFFICE  
METROPOLITAN STADIUM - BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA 55420

Office of the President

July 8, 1974

James E. Thielman  
221 North 8th St., N.  
Breckenridge, Minnesota 56520

Dear Mr. Thielman:

If I was making as much money as Killebrew and Oliva I would be willing to take a cut in salary. Sports is the only business where an employee can make more money than the president.

I do not know you of course but if you still feel Billy Martin is some one you would like to be associated with, then I feel sorry for you. I let him go as did the Detroit club and you may have noticed in the papers the last two days that he is now in a flare up with the Texas owners.

A few years ago there were only seven players in the American League who were making \$100,000 and Minnesota had two of them...Oliva and Killebrew. If it had not been for me, Oliva would probably now be making around \$15,000 as a coach or scout as I am the one who got the Designated Hitter rule in the American League.

Kaat and Perry had become very complacent with our club and sometimes the only way to shake them up is to trade them. From all reports I have received, Fife will make a major league pitcher. He is maturing now and when he arrives, he will be big. In order to build a ball club you have to start with "no names" and of course, every super star at one time is such a player. I believe our players now are capable of playing major league ball. Our hitting is the best in the major leagues and now they are starting to show they can play defensively as well. However, we have to start getting the hits when we have men on base in order to win more games.

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I feel that most of the newspapers have not given our players a fair deal and this has disheartened them a lot. Perhaps with a little more encouragement from the press our club would play better ball.

Thank you for your interest and I am sure if you will read between the lines you will see where the real fault lies.

Sincerely yours,



Calvin R. Griffith  
President

CRG/ras