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Bout Promoters Find Haven In Maine

By NORMAN FOURNIER
Staff Reporter

LEWISTON — Desperate and scurrying a hapful of money, promoters of the Sonny Liston-Cassius Clay heavyweight championship fight have found a haven here.

"Money is no problem, they've got to stage the fight," said one source close to Inter-Continental Promotions, Inc., the organization promoting the title spectacular.

Many local residents, some of whom make no more than $50 a week, will probably see more money than bands in the next couple of weeks than they've ever seen.

The Dominican Palthers proprietors of the Central Maine Youth Center, the first taste of the "big time money."

THEY NORMALLY CHARGE $250 a day for use of the arena.

But, without batting an eye, Inter - Continental Promotions said it was willing to pay $1,000 for the one-day use of the building.

THE FATHERS, noted for their astute business acme, promptly accepted without so much as questioning.

Some of the same money deals appear in the offing.

Despite a seating capacity of only 3,200, promoters expect the gate to grow more than $1 million, most of it through closed-circuit television.

Cuyuhoster Sam Michael of Boston said that he was about to bring in more than a number of a million dollars since more than half of the tickets—about 2,000 — will be sold as "ringside dignity" at $100 each. Other tickets will be sold at $50 and $25 each.

Michael reports the $25 tickets already have sold out. And, he adds, "with the response we're getting from Maine residents alone, we should have a sellout house in a few days."

A million dollars in the $100-$50-$25 scale, would bring in a bigger gross than what promoters expected in Boston Garden with its 13,909 seating capacity.

Boston tickets would have sold at $50-$30-$10.

Robert Nilen, Inter-Continental president, said Saturday the reception we've received here has been tremendous from the start.

Local and state government officials he said "have treated us royally — they've made us feel welcome. I can't say the same for some of the other cities we looked at."

Nilen spent most of Saturday inspecting and surveying the Central Maine Youth Center.

"There isn't a bad seat in the house," he said. "The farthest seat is 120 feet away from ringside in Boston; our ringside reserved section extended more than 100 feet away from ring center."

Michael, who says he resigned Friday as Lewiston's representative to the Legislature, says he'd like fulltime boxing fight, asserts "this championship fight will mean more than $1 million in publicity for Lewiston-Auburn and the State of Maine . . . they couldn't buy that publicity for all the money in the DED budget."

Michael predicted several weeks ago that his promotions would eventually be staged in small cities like Lewiston.

THE ADVENT of closed-circuit television, he has steadfastly maintained, will be the salvation of professional boxing.

"When the Clay-Liston re-

Other fight stories on Pages 1B, 2B, 11B

match ran into some legal difficulties in several states. Michael was on the phone selling Lewiston as a possible site But Boston got the "sale."

Last week when it appeared that Inter-Continental would stage a local battle in Lewiston, Michael again got on the phone and repeated his sales pitch

The offer was taken under consideration, but at the time promoters appeared more interested in Cleveland

"We had an appointment with the mayor of Cleveland Thursday" said William Cherry, secretary of Inter-Continental. "But when the mayor left for Europe, we decided to call on Maine."

State boxing commission chairman George Nixon, Gorham Reed and other state officials similarly made the necessary arrangements to clear the way for the bout to be held in Maine.

Boxing Commission Head George Nixon: Made Arrangements

Check for More Top News Inside

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Logging Days
The day of the colorful and death-defying log drive in Maine is past, but logging goes on and grows as machines take over what men used to do. For the story of the logging revolution in Maine . . . 1C

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"THE BIG KNIFE"
Sensational Drama with
IDA LUPINO
JACK PALANCE
11:30 TONIGHT
CHANNEL 13

Rebels Claim Cease-Fire Void

Dominican Showdown Looms

SANTO DOMINGO (UPI) — Rebels killed a U.S. Marine and wounded three paratroopers during the night, then announced Saturday they are no longer bound by the cease-fire because of the change in the rival Dominican government.

A shooting inquest in the Dominican power struggle between U.S.-backed provisional president Col. Francisco Caamano, and the new "loyalist" junta of military and civilian leaders.

A rebel spokesman, Hector Aristy, minister to the presidency, said Saturday the new junta is totally unacceptable and said there is no chance of associating with it."

He also said the old military junta of Gen. Elias Wessin y Wessin signed the cease-fire accidentally, and has now been disowned by the rebels who have since abrogated it.

He also charged the United States violated its neutrality by permitting eight truckloads of Wessin troops to pass through the American-held corridor to establish the new junta within the international refugee zone Friday.

Caamano, who was provisional president under provisional by his supporters Friday, failed to appear at a news conference called by Maj. Gen. Antonio Imbert Barrera.

Imbert "betrayed the people" and was "manipulated by Wessin," said Aristy.

The Marine, a rifle warrant officer, was killed by rebel fi

Continued on Page 4A, Col 1

New Dominican Government

The Dominican Republic's new loyalist "government of national reconstruction" joined in a five-way handshake in Santo Domingo. From left are Alejandro Zeller Cocn, 41, engineer; Julio Postigo, 61, former mayor of Santo Domingo; Gen. Antonio Imbert Barreras, 45, president of the new group; Carlos Grisolia Polonny, 51, former governor of Puerta Plata Province, and Col. Pedro B. Benoit, 44, holdover from the old three-man junta. (AP Wirephoto)

Rusk Would Like OAS 'Ready Force'

By DONALD C RANSEN
Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Secretary of State Dean Rusk Saturday called on the Organization of American States (OAS) should consider forming a "standby force" to deal with future emergencies like the Dominican.

He also cited a need for "political machinery" to strengthen the OAS to make decisions and "to take responsibility for the kind of action required by the course of events."

Rusk said the OAS is sending troops to the Dominican Republic "because this is a fast-moving, fluid situation."

Rusk said the U.S. is sending troops to the Dominican Republic because "time is of the essence." He said that in the Dominican Republic "standby forces" to deal with future emergencies like the Dominican.

He also cited a need for "political machinery" to strengthen the OAS to make decisions and "to take responsibility for the kind of action required by the course of events