



July 19, 1985

Dear Season Ticket Holder:

The Chicago Cubs will continue to fight it out in the hotly contested Eastern Division of the National League. Injuries have taken down a number of our people, but a lack of consistency in hitting and not playing fundamental baseball has been our real downfall. I am confident, however, that the team will come around in the second half of the season and hopefully win the championship that we fell short of last season. This brings me to the point of my letter.

The Chicago Cubs will not be able to play its World Series home games in Chicago this year because of the light situation in Wrigley Field. It is also possible that our League Championship games will also be moved. I want to explain why, and why we need lights in Wrigley Field, as well as discuss longer-term alternatives to Wrigley Field. Before doing so, I feel it is important to talk about the philosophy of the Chicago Cubs since Tribune Company purchased the club in 1981.

When I came here four years ago, I promised Cub fans that I would bring a winning baseball team to Chicago. At that time, the Chicago Cubs' team and organization were not winners nor could they be under the conditions which existed. I wanted a first-class operation from top to bottom, and I set about doing just that. We signed free agents and made a number of trades to plug some of our biggest holes in order to get the team to a competitive position. I also signed some young key players as "building blocks" for the future. Importantly, we began to develop a top-notch farm system to supply new talent. We began all the changes that were, in my opinion, necessary to bring the pride of winning to an organization and to our fans that had escaped them for so many years.

It takes money and lots of it to accomplish these objectives. Make no mistake about it, baseball is big business. To win, you must get top-notch players, and to get these players you have to be willing to pay the salaries good players can command in baseball today. The past Cubs' management wasn't willing to spend the money to do this. I was determined to change that philosophy and history.

Where do we get our money? We get it from our advertisers, from local and national TV packages and a majority of it from the ticket packages and concessions bought by you, our fans. In looking back at the tremendous support provided by Chicago Cub fans over the years, I know there was another attraction here besides just a baseball team. That magnet was beautiful Wrigley Field with all of its ivy-covered walls, old scoreboard, charm and tradition. We know how much Wrigley Field means to the image of the city,

the Cubs' organization, and most importantly, our fans. Sadly, now the very existence of Wrigley Field is being threatened.

Built over 70 years ago, Wrigley Field is the only Major League Baseball stadium without lights. It also has the second smallest seating capacity. In order to be competitive financially and on the field, we must be able to play some night games, and we must have a seating capacity of 45,000 - 50,000. We know there are major problems to be overcome in the neighborhood if we are to stay and grow. With the help of the city, state and neighborhood, we believe we can address the ballpark's limitations, while being mindful of the interests and concerns of the surrounding community and our duties as a good citizen. Almost \$15 million has already been spent on capital projects and necessary maintenance on Wrigley Field since Tribune Company purchased the Cubs in 1981. More than that will be needed for lights, additional seating, and addressing the neighborhood concerns if Wrigley Field is to survive, but we are willing to commit to this to stay in Wrigley Field. However, the inflexibility of the city, state and neighborhood heads is forcing us to look at our alternatives and may well eventually force us right out of Wrigley Field.

Now, let me tell you about our position on the lights. The Major League Baseball national TV contracts give television the option to require all World Series and most playoff games to be played in "prime time" at night. They also provide that some of our Saturday day games be blacked out because of the national game-of-the-week. Furthermore, the contract did not address the lack of lights in Wrigley Field. Fortunately, last year for the playoffs and World Series games we were able to negotiate with the television networks and Commissioner's office to flip-flop games to resolve the issue, but the Cubs had to surrender the home field advantage.

The Commissioner of Baseball, Peter Ueberroth, warned us last December that unless the Cubs resolve the problems presented by the lack of stadium lights, baseball would be forced to take action which, in the absence of any other alternatives, included moving post-season games out of Chicago. Since that time, we have made every legal effort to have the state and local laws that, in effect, ban night baseball changed, first in the courts and then through lobbying efforts at the state level. Most teams play 50-60 night games at home during the regular season. We suggested a compromise solution of lights for post-season play and only 18 regular season games for a 10 year period, but this was rejected by the legislature and opposed by the neighbors.

The Cubs need this minimum number of regular season night games for five reasons: (1) to acquaint our players with actual night time game conditions in our park; (2) to avoid the heat and dog days of summer which, even though we won last year, put our players at a disadvantage; (3) to allow our players more time to sleep after getting in at 2 or 3 in the morning after road trips, similar to our schedule for 3:05 games now; (4) to broaden fan appeal and allow fans that work during the day to attend

our games; and (5) to help us in our full-season ticket sales to businesses which are low compared to other clubs.

Much has been said about the use of temporary lights for post-season play. Let me set the record straight and say that there has never been a Major League Baseball game played under temporary lights. After several months of intensive study by our engineers and consultants, we don't believe that temporary lights will work for Major League Baseball -- maybe for college football and baseball -- but not for us. As with everything associated with the Chicago Cubs, we want to do things professionally, including a lighting system we can be proud of. I'm not about to have amateur night with temporary lights and risk embarrassing the Cubs and City of Chicago in front of the entire nation.

We have now reached the point where it is too late to have permanent lights at Wrigley Field this year due to long lead times necessary in ordering specialized equipment. As a result, if the Cubs do make it to post-season play, all of the club's "home" World Series and possibly the "home" playoff games will be played outside of Chicago. The TV network has informed Baseball that they have picked up their option, and all 1985 World Series games will be played at night. If the Cubs win their division, this will force the Commissioner to name an acceptable alternative site, most likely another National League Eastern Division stadium which our players are most familiar with. The exact location will be selected later in the season. However, we will do everything we can to assist you and all other Cub fans who wish to attend post-season games. We will of course honor all commitments for post-season ticket privileges.

Needless to say, we are upset about this whole affair, but there is nothing else we can do. Moving our home games to another city will obviously cause more expense and inconvenience for our fans. For this we apologize. It is embarrassing for the Chicago Cubs and a black-eye for the City of Chicago. It will also cost the city tens of millions of dollars in lost revenues.

As I said before, we very much want to stay in Wrigley Field. We have, however, been very frustrated in our attempts to deal with the lights issue, particularly the politics and inflexibility of the state, city and neighborhood. It is difficult to assess the chances of staying in Wrigley Field or the City of Chicago at this time. Perhaps Wrigley Field is living on borrowed time and will become another Crosley Field, Forbes Field and Polo Grounds. Whether or not there is a baseball strike and whether or not we win or lose on the field this year, these problems will not go away and must be addressed.

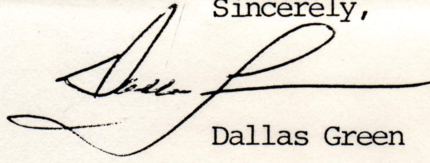
To prepare for the future, I have asked my staff to study a new stadium for the Cubs and to review possible sites. Locations within the City of Chicago as well as surrounding suburbs will be considered. We do this with reluctance, but a firm conviction to do what is best for the Cubs in the long-term. Some people have called this a ploy or an idle threat, but those

who know me know better.

The Cubs value your continued support and we will do all we can to retain and reward it. We have a sense no one wants us to leave Wrigley Field, but quite honestly actions speak louder than words and right now no one seems to want to help us. We would encourage you to voice your opinion to your congressmen on the Wrigley Field issue. So far, only a very small but vocal minority has been heard.

We will notify you of more definitive post-season plans sometime in August.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dallas Green", written in dark ink.

Dallas Green

DG/tk