



World Bank Group Archives Exhibit Series

World Bank President Eugene Black Attends
Washington Baseball Games with Staff

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The World Bank Group Archives Exhibit Series contains exhibits originally published on the Archives' external website beginning in 2002. When the Archives' website was transferred to a new platform in 2015, it was decided that older exhibits would be converted to pdf format and made available as a series on the World Bank's external database, [Documents & Reports](#).

These exhibits, authored by World Bank archivists, highlight key events, personalities, and publications in the history of the World Bank. They also bring attention to some of the more fascinating archival records contained in the Archives' holdings.

To view current exhibits, visit the [Exhibits](#) page on the Archives' website.



World Bank President Eugene Black Attends Washington Baseball Games with Staff

With summer here and baseball season in full swing, the Archives highlights an annual tradition that took place under Eugene Black, the 3rd President of the World Bank Group. In 1949, when Black became President, the Bank was a small organization: its mission only vaguely understood and its future path uncertain. This gave Black the opportunity to make an impact on its development, as well as become more involved in the Bank's social events. In addition to knowing nearly all staff members by name, Black rarely missed an annual picnic, Christmas party or bowling tournament. He also created an annual event of his own.



These and images below are taken from International Bank Notes, July-August 1962. View the entire article below.

Though relatively small in 1949, the Bank staff, and its Board of Executive Directors, was very diverse. The Board was composed of thirteen Executive Directors, each of a different nationality, and together represented more than 50 countries. In order to provide this group with a team building, and quintessentially American, experience Black invited the Board of Directors and their sons to celebrate summer at a Washington Senators' baseball game.





This event occurred first in 1950, and once a summer the World Bank Fathers and Sons would be bused to RFK Stadium for an evening of baseball, food and fun. Eventually the group expanded to include not only the Executive Directors but senior staff as well. By the end of the tradition in 1962, it had grown to include a pre-game buffet in the stadium and an attendance of more than 100 people of a dozen nationalities.

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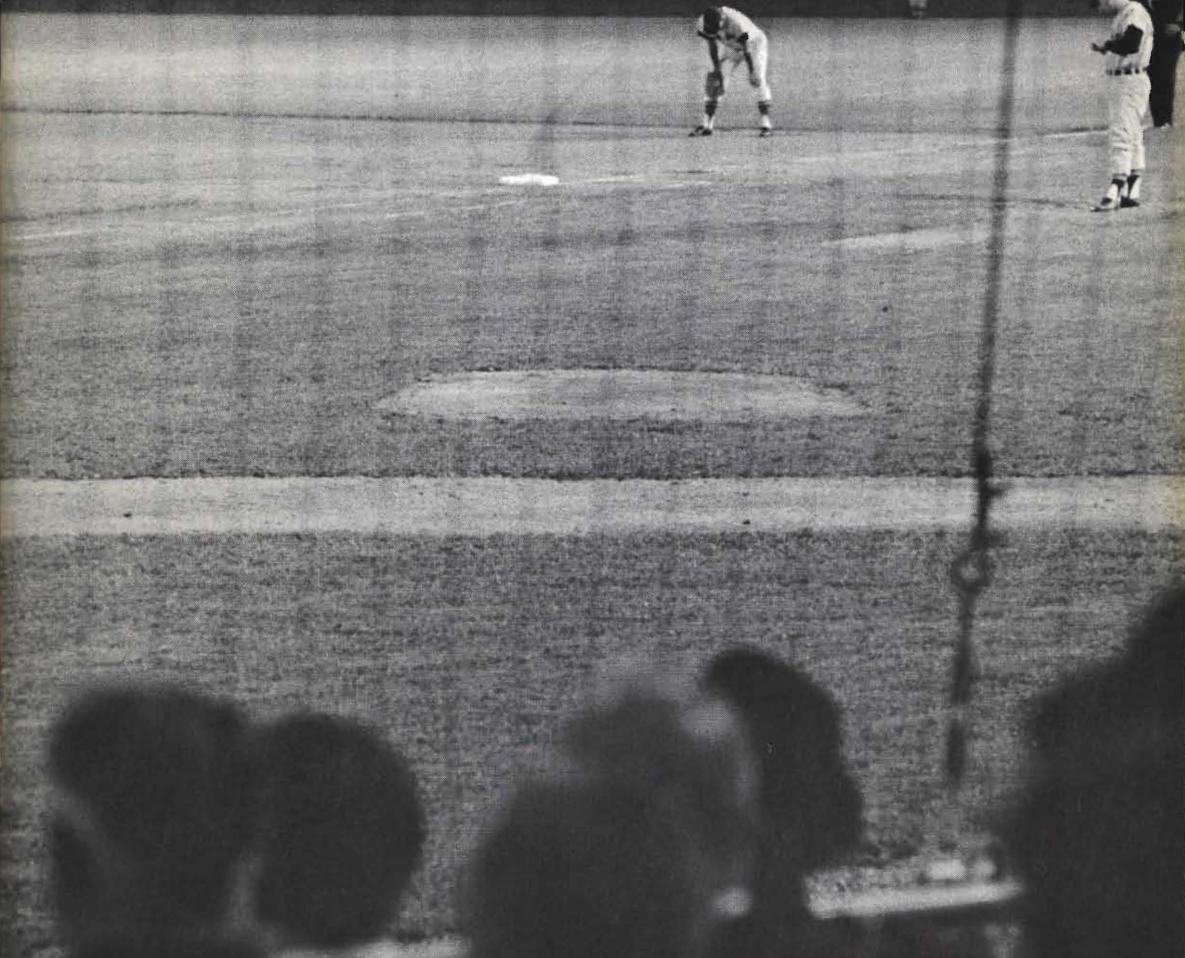
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 8 RF 9 20 P 4 25 IB 8 5 9S
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MAGIC-MESSAGE
THE SENATORS
GREET GROUP
FROM
WORLD BANK

				NATIONAL			
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CHL.	4			MIL			10
S.F.		6		PHIL			3



International
BANK NOTES
 JULY-AUGUST 1962



WELCOME TO NEW STAFF—JUNE

(Seated L to R): *Peggy Cury*, Department of Operations—Far East, from Beirut; *Ingrid Luttert*, Department of Operations—Far East, from Bielefeld, Germany; *Phyllis Brown*, Administration Department, from Eastbourne, Sussex; *Erla Gunnarsdottir*, Administration Department, from Skagafirdi, Iceland; and *Anthea de Winton*, Office of Information, from Aberdeenshire, Scotland. (Standing L to R): *Barbara Huddleston*, Office of Information, from Canton, New York; *Bharat B. Krishna*, Economic Staff, from Meerut City, India; and *Edith Selse*, Treasurer's Department, from Hanover, Germany.

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Approaching the stadium from the buses which took the group from the Bank to the game.



WORLD BANK FATHERS AND SONS SUPPORT THE SENATORS

ON JUNE 13 the Washington Senators and the Cleveland Indians were cheered by 15,000 spectators. In the crowd that evening were the World Bank "Fathers & Sons"—an unusually polyglot group even for such an international city as the Nation's Capital.

When Eugene R. Black of Atlanta, Georgia, became President of the World Bank in 1949, he found himself chairman of a Board of Executive Directors unlike any he had experienced in his thirty years of experience as an American investment banker. There were thirteen men at the Board table, each of a different nationality. Between them these men represented more than fifty countries, all stockholders in the Bank.

Gene Black is as good an internationalist as any—and better than most. But he thought it only right that he should introduce his foreign colleagues to the great national game of baseball. To make the idea even more palatable, he invited the Executive Directors to bring their sons along.

That was in the summer of 1950. What was then a new idea has now become an annual event. In addition to Executive Directors, Mr. Black now invites



Fathers serving themselves.



Raymond Goodman's son, Jeremy, enjoyed himself.

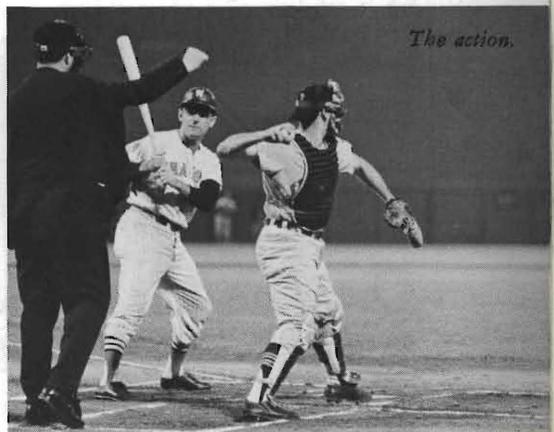
senior World Bank staff members to the game—and this year, to a buffet supper in the Stadium as a curtain raiser.

It is evident from the pictures that it was a pleasant evening. There were close to 100 guests, including children. In all, there were more than a dozen nationalities in the party, running all the way through the alphabet from Australia and China to the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. Maybe many of them didn't understand all that was happening on the floodlit diamond before them—but what they lacked in knowledge, both young and old made up in enthusiasm. Pete Quesada, President of the Senators, who sat with Mr. Black through the game, seemed well pleased with his new group of World Bank rooters.



Each boy received a baseball autographed by Pete Quesada.

A general shot of the adult rooters applauding another run.



The action.

The boys ate first. (L to R in foreground): Stevie—Robert Sadove's son; Greg—Gerald Alter's son; and Tony—Y.L. Chang's grandson.





Some spectator reactions.



Harold Graves' youngest son, Mike, kept careful record of the score.



Y.L. Chang's grandson, Tony, divided his attention between popcorn and baseball.



*A man hopes that his lean years are behind him;
a woman, that hers are ahead.*
