

# Finley or Seltzer? Answer June 29

By ED SCHOENFELD  
Tribune Sports Writer

Governors of the National Hockey League have been called to a special meeting June 29 in New York to approve transfer of the Oakland Seals franchise to either A's owner Charles O. Finley or a limited partnership headed by Oaklanders Jerry Seltzer and John Buono.

"Those are the only two ap-

plications we will consider," Clarence Campbell, president of the NHL, told The Tribune today from league headquarters in Montreal.

The order San Francisco Superior Court Judge Robert H. Schnacke signed late yesterday stated that nothing contained in the order should be construed to limit, hinder or prejudice anyone — including but not limiting it to Finley or

the Seltzer group — to apply for the NHL franchise.

This led to immediate speculation there might be a third, or even a fourth, party now ready to seek the Seals.

"I'm sure the judge didn't intend it to mean this as an opening beyond the two present applicants," Campbell said.

Judge Schnacke said in his order that he found both the

bids by Finley (\$4.1 million) and Seltzer (\$4.5 million) "commercially reasonable."

Of the Seltzer offer, he said: "It appears on the face to be a substantially better offer than the Finley offer."

The judge further stated that nothing is contained in his order intended in any way to limit or circumscribe the power of the NHL to deter-

mine the applicant it deems most acceptable.

Bankruptcy referee Sheridan Downey Jr. today dissolved a temporary order restraining sale of the hockey club by Barry Van Gerbig's Seals Limited.

Also in the Oakland proceedings referee Downey received an application from Trans National Communications Inc. to dismiss proceed-

ings on its Chapter 11 petition. Downey set a June 30 hearing of the creditors to consider the dismissal application.

Campbell said the league governors are not primarily concerned whether the Seals are sold for \$4.5 or \$4.1 million.

"We are interested in dollars," Campbell declared. "But not to pay off old debts.

That is no concern of ours any more.

"The league is primarily concerned that the debts of the club are discharged. But beyond that, our major concern is that whoever the transferee be, he will be the person with the most to offer, not necessarily in dollars, but in long-range benefits for the

Continued Page 44, Col. 4

## NHL Picks Seal Owner On June 29

Continued from 1st Sports Page

league through the successful operation of the franchise in Oakland."

Campbell said the league finance committee, chaired by William Jennings of the New York Rangers, will call on both Finley and the Seltzer group prior to the June 29 meeting.

"The committee will look into both applicants' ability and willingness to sustain the franchise," he said.

It will take 11 of 14 votes to approve transfer of the Seals franchise, he said.

William Cresse, president of the present Seals, and the club's designated governor, will cast Oakland's vote, the NHL president said.

"I'd rather not comment at this point," Cresse said last night when asked if he'd vote for Finley or the Seltzer group.

Campbell said Seltzer, the Roller Derby promoter, and Buono, an automobile dealer, are general partners with some limited partners. He said he was not at liberty to identify the limiteds or their number.

A major item in Judge Schnacke's order is that both the Finley and Seltzer offers may be considered by the NHL without restriction — all restraining orders were withdrawn.