Letter from Curt Flood to then commissioner Bowie Kuhn dated 12/24/1969

Mr. Bowie K. Kuhn  
Commissioner of Baseball  
680 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10019

After twelve years in the Major Leagues, I do not feel I am a piece of property to be bought and sold irrespective of my wishes. I believe that any system which produces that result violates my basic rights as a citizen and is inconsistent with the laws of the United States and of the sovereign States.

It is my desire to play baseball in 1970, and I am capable of playing. I have received a contract offer from the Philadelphia Club, but I believe I have the right to consider offers from other clubs before making any decisions. I, therefore, request that you make known to all Major League Clubs my feelings in this matter, and advise them of my availability for the 1970 season.

Sincerely Yours, Curt Flood.

Found in:

Gabe Lacques. **50 years after his letter changed baseball forever, Curt Flood's sacrifice still resonates. USAToday.com, Dec. 24, 2019. Last viewed May 5, 2020 at:** <https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/mlb/2019/12/24/curt-flood-letter-mlb-free-agency-bowie-kuhn/2722291001/>