

Your Next Move Should Be . . .

By George Koltanowski

My game with Paul Keres is almost finished and I want to express my sincere thanks to the hundreds of patient (and impatient) chess fans all over the United States who worked on this game along with me.

The game was carried by a number of papers and we received more than 2000 cards with each move!

It was a lot of fun, but 25 years' absence from tournament chess is just a bit too much to overcome—not to mention the caliber of my opponent, Grand Master Keres, probably third best in the world.

The "work" was tough at times, especially as one had to keep track of the moves sent in by the readers, too, and believe it or not, I lost over 20 pounds—the most satisfying result I could have had.

But the game had some interesting sidelights. There was the Fan-from-Salinas, who made a personal issue out of the game and resigned with each move! He must have missed all the fun, and cut himself out of a prize.

I was the only one who could take responsibility for winning or losing the game—not the contestant!

And then there was the

participant who did not like my moves, and kept telephoning so often I had to put a stop to it. He would usually call at 1 o'clock in the morning!

We even had a Bircher participating! All his cards had "Beat that Red." When he didn't like my move he accused me "... of adopting a policy of co-existence" ...!

I liked remarks like the one from the young Berkeley player "11.NxP — And a Prayer."

A player from Washington, D.C. called Keres' first move 1 . . . N-KB3 an impossible one . . . and some expert from the Peninsula insisted on sending a full analysis of each move—and recommended moves that were just as bad as his analysis!

But how about these remarks: "White's play is characterized by cowardly caution, dull imagination and frenetic immobility. The only way White can win this game is for Black to drop dead."

"... What should Koltanowski's move be . . . Suicide!" . . .

"I haven't had so much fun in a chess game in 25 years. How about lining up some of the other big names?" All these last three came from one chess fan, who, most of the time, made the same moves I did!

The chess promotion value of the game was tremendous.

We have shown that it can be done. It is now up to the other U.S. grand masters and masters to continue the good work. They will have a ball! So will the chess fans! Chess is a wonderful game!