

May 31, 1940

Dear Cameron,

Today I got my check for the week ending day before yesterday. However, I didn't get anything for the Pittman story of several weeks ago. You will probably recall that when I got the preceding check without compensation for this story I wired you collect and after accepting ^{you} the wire/refused the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ toll.

Unfortunately, you specified no sum in advance for this work, so we had no agreement on it. I did tell Dick when he called me on it that I wanted to be told in advance how much I would get so I could know how much time to devote to it. Faced with a choice between waiting God knows how long for this information and not ~~not~~ having enough time to do anything I want to work on the story and get what I could.

However, as in previous similar situations, this seems to have resulted in confusion. I think that in the future it will be better if we stick to the terms you offered me in New York last time I was up-that you specify in advance how much I will get on queries. If we have no such agreement in advance I will, when I send in whatever material ^{tell you} I get on each query, /what I want for the work.

I want \$40 for the Pittman work.

The other night the Guild had a party here and I talked with many of the boys about the magazine. It is universally popular with them. I did hear many complaints about the difficulty ~~xxxxxx~~ they have getting it. Those stands that carry it run out fast.

For your files I enclose two excerpts from today's Congressional Record: The debate in the Senate on Reorganization Plan No.V, the transfer of the Immigration Service to the Department of Justice, containing the criticisms of J. Edgar Hoover by Senators Norris and Wheeler, and the text of Al Williams speech of the other night which has created a little stir in Congressional circles. It disproves some of FDR's "hysterical chatter". Williams, as I recall it, was purged with the late (and this week much lamented and eulogized) General Billy Palmer. Both held ideas on aviation that were considered at that time fantastic but which have just been proved by the Nazi air force. If you should be at all interested in this there ^{was} ~~is~~ a great deal of ash-heaping ~~the~~ on Congressional heads this past week, all of which I can get from the debates.

I don't know how far I'll be able to carry it, because it takes a lot of time, but I have commenced a summary, from the Record, of the debates on the national-defense legislation which I think might be of value to you.

Please have someone send me the dough.

Yours

Harold