

8430 126 Street,
Kew Gardens, N.Y.
November 22, 1942.

Dear Harold,

Mighty glad to have heard from you. Strange enough, the day your letter arrived, Arthur called me and stated that he had just received your note in which you asked for your dough. Said Arthur: "We were supposed to pay him the fifty bucks in two weeks and the two weeks are only up today." I imagine that by now you got the money.

Incidentally, I'm still in the dark about Picture Scoop. The boys said something about putting out a fourth issue, with their usual cries about how much dough they lost and how broke they are. Whether they'll go ahead or not, I don't know, but officially we're out. We haven't been near the office since the thirteenth. Frankly, we have not made up our minds as yet what we'll do in futuro. Both of us have been very much under the weather and couldn't accomplish much. However, in view of no other possibilities, we'll do some free lance writing (if we can), and I'll go ahead with the ~~project of~~ getting the radio show on Japan ~~accepted~~. *It has a good chance of being accepted* ©

I don't know anyone on PIC but I have a ~~friend~~ friend who is very well acquainted there. If you need help let me know. And as for SPOT, I haven't heard from them at all. I guess the chances of their taking my feature are slim.

As for collaboration, naturally Helen and I have plenty of contacts and outlets, and if you have any ideas, we'd be happy to collaborate with you. A third partner would be taboo for plenty of reasons, some of which were explained to you. As I see it, you would gather the material *and* after we received data from you, ~~from which~~ we could write an outline and submit it to a contact. If we got the green light, then you could get what additional data is needed and we'd do the writing here ~~to~~ conform to the style demanded by a specific outlet. We would then split. How's that, or did you have other notions in mind? Frankly, I can't see any other, ^{plus} because in that event we would in effect be acting as agents, and that we'd hate to do, in view of our being known as writers. But if we sell the idea and write it, I think the arrangement would be very fair.

The markets are looking for damn good human interest stories about personalities, and yarns about the armed forces. In last week's Collier's, there was a story about a town which is now all out for defense, and the inhabitants were all women. Those are the things they're looking for, and exposees are out. (*if course, there are other stories and you certainly know what's good*)

Now as far as ~~xxxxxx~~ reselling any of the stuff you wrote for P. Scoop---I don't like the idea of doing it. In the first place, there are only one or two yarns which could be sold, and when you approach an editor that immediately diminishes your chances of selling another yarn. You see, we'd have to repay the boys what they already gave you, so what's the sense? Furthermore, there's still the chance that they may go ahead, and knowing them from past days, the following may happen: I'd make a deal for a sale and after it is consummated, they tell me that they want more dough or that they decided to publish themselves. They are damn unreliable. *(Even if I got permission in writing it not be immediate from Embury)*

Another thing: should the boys ask you to get OK on proofs for articles you were paid for, let me know. And in addition, make sure you let them know in advance that you are to get a fee. But before writing them, communicate with me first, so that I can give you the lay of the land. I already told them that under no circumstances could they publish anything with a government official's by-line, without an OK of proofs, so ~~that~~ they are plenty scared.

I recall that you told me you had some dope for possible stories for crime mags. Frankly, the pay is very little for a story. I think from 75 to a 100 bucks, but if there is a lull in work at some future time, we may work on them. In the meantime let me know what's all about. Also give ~~to~~ us the ideas you want us to work on here. I ^{may} also get some ideas which require Washington contacts and research and if I do I'll write you. Frankly, I think we can work out some damn good stories between us.

Well, let us hear from you soon again, and in the meantime keep well.

Give our best to LIL and we hope we see you soon.

Sincerely,

HBBEN AND AL,
per



l.g. If he sold an army story we had for P. Scoop- they'd hardly want another army story for some time

*Boy, what writing!
I hope you get what he means. It would be a waste of time for me to edit this letter.
H/b.*