Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701:::473/8186

4/2/69

Mr. Martin Singer
Editor, Saga
333 Johnson Ave.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Marty,

After speaking to you last week I also spoke to Steve Bair, who insists he was never offered anything by your people. I merely report this.

On checking my files, as you asked, I find that the lawyer, Bill Lucas, never did send me the final, itemized bill he said he would. I am sure Bair has it. When I discussed this with Lucas in his office on December 13, 1968, he had not yet filed the final bill. He checked his records and gave me these additions to the bill that then was approximately $5,000 (just a few dollars less): $216.95 to be added, of which his fee was $150, the rest expenses.

It is not possible for me to give you a breakdown on my own expenses, as I will explain. You will see that the estimate of $500 is ultra-conservative.

I first made a trip to Philadelphia to meet with Lucas, at his request, this being less costly than going to New Orleans. This was in June or July of 1967. He was there with his son who wanted to take a look at the Univ. of Penna., where he was considering applying for admission. This entailed about 300 miles of driving and tolls (about $30.00) plus expenses in Phila. I then made a number of trips to New Orleans, to see Lucas and to investigate the plaintiff. Because I also did other things on these trips, I considered a fair allocation was two trips (and believe me, this is more than fair, for I worked on this very extensively every time I was there, about six or seven times, until the second suit was over). Each time I was there for about two weeks. I also had a number of meetings with Lucas. My life was complicated after the second case was filed because Bringuier had not served me and had made no effort to. I was not, really, a defendant in it. Lucas wanted me not to be served because it would have complicated the case had I been. On the other hand, I very much wanted to be served, for I very much wanted this case in court. I adhered to what he said was to your interest and Dell's. In the course of these investigations, I developed proof of a number of things, not the least of which was a case of perjury against Bringuier. Had the case gone to court, we had what we needed, and this is what I worked on. Now the fare, tourist, is $133.00. mileage to and from the airport and parking for each trip is about $36.00, aside from transportation expenses in New Orleans. As you can see, this part of the transportation alone with the Phila trip is close to $400.00. You well know that I could not live and work in New Orleans for about a month, even much less, for $100.00. Over and above all of this, there was extensive Xeroxing, which is costly here (20¢ per page). Lucas wanted certain things immediately, like Bringuier's testimony and all that related to it. On one of those trips, working on this, I now recall I rented a car to go to Baton Rouge. The cost was more than $60.00, and I had to stay there two nights. This alone accounts for the approximate $100.00 over the transportation costs. So, you can see that because it just was not possible for

me to keep separate records, I did lean far over backwards to be fair. And I, naturally, am the only one who doesn't get paid for his time. Aside from the fact that it would have been difficult if not impossible for you or Dell to develop the fact I did, this cannot, aside from salary, be duplicated for well over twice what I estimate. I would, as a matter of fact, appreciate it very much if you would make an estimate closer to reality, since to your people it would be a deductable business expense. And I am in the position of subsidizing everyone.

You ought to remember how successful my investigation was. Remember, I asked you if you wanted to do a story on this anti-Semite/fascist that would really take the hide off of him, and you said you thought your people would rather not with the case pending. I did get the goods on him. After the second case was ended and I was no longer bound by what Lucas considered your interest, I drove past his place and waved at him, hoping he'd then come after me. He did not. He does not want me in court. But you should have seen the double takes!

There are all sorts of other costs that I have not indicated. For example, a number of tape cartridges for the interviews with witnesses. One of these runs close to a hundred pages transcribed (Pena). I must have interviewed several dozen witnesses on this alone, some as late as getting toward dawn. Once, when Pena was with me, he had his tires slashed! If there was a charge for the stenography alone, it would have been murder. You should hear some of the accents, some of thelanguage!

If you have any questions, please ask them and I'll do the best I can with them. Those of you who work regular, civilized hours may have trouble comprehending how I work, with so much of it after good people with regular jobs have gone to bed. But when there are barmaids who do not go to work until midnight, and that is where you have to catch them, sources like that, there is little choice. It was rough and in itself made record-keeping difficult. However, it would not be fair to charge you the actual costs on those many trips for there were other things I did having nothing to do with these cases.

How about sending me a copy of the CIA piece you mentioned?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg