

15 February 1975

Dear Larry: (Finley)

There might be some crumb in the enclosed UPI story from NY which hasn't already reached you, so I send it along. The angle that the Empire State lady has got herself a lawyer and is demanding guarantees against prosecution is, one supposes, a solid development.

Pls make a mental note to let me know if you run into any hint from Janus as to where he has raised the ~~\$250k~~ \$150,000 for the reward and the additional \$500,000 which he says is available.

For what it's worth, I'm unable to separate this development (the sudden solidifying of the Empire State lady angle) from the latest froth from the San Clemente soap opera: Nixon's frightening the wits out of the Republicans by threatening to resume political activity on their behalf, and his allowing it to be known that he has fantasized, as Time mag put it, that he would not mind some day being ambassador in Peking. I had divined the latter some months ago from what Julie said at one point, about not letting his talents for dealing with foreigners go to waste. But as usual I hadn't anticipated the gall required for him to tell Goldwater he'd like to help the party out. This is an unmistakable threat, designed to make everyone feel that the farther they can send him the better. Even the Democrats can hardly view the 1976 campaign with calm if they think Nixon is going to be messing around in it. He knows too much.

Would Ford name Nixon ambassador to Peking? That depends partly on whether the pardon was extended under duress, but also could be much influenced on how much GOP heat is turned on Ford to get our GL to shut up.

Would the Chinese accept Nixon? This is the worst part. In my judgment they would. Watergate has meant nothing to them -- just another sign of capitalist degeneracy. They undoubtedly see Nixon as a perfectly natural product of such a system, and besides all us long-nosed Caucasians look alike anyway. Most of all, while they know his record as well as we do, the fact remains that he DID something about their most painful internal question -- Taiwan -- and made possible the prospect of a solution.

If he actually is sent to Peking, eventually, how better to grease the whole deal than with the long-lost bones.

Sorry to hit you with a horror story.

Best,

jdw 

cc/hw

Peking Man, Mystery Woman

New York

A mystery woman who claims she has the bones of the prehistoric Peking Man has again made contact with a businessman offering \$500,000 for the priceless fossils, it was learned yesterday.

Christopher Janus of Chicago, a millionaire investment broker who once traded a load of half-bearings for Hitler's five-ton Mercedes-Benz, said the woman contacted him four weeks ago through a man identifying himself as her attorney and demanding a letter from China guaranteeing there would be no legal claim against her.

A prominent anthropologist said a photograph supplied by the mystery woman shows a skull that strongly resembles the Peking Man.

The fossils, believed to be those of a human-like creature that lived more than half a million years ago, were unearthed in a limestone quarry near Peking in the late 1930s. Parts of 40 skeletons were recovered. The Chinese have charged



UPI Telephone

INVESTMENT BROKER CHRISTOPHER JANUS. He reported a page of the bones sent to him, a printing of Peking Man, and wanted him

that the United States spirit-ed the fossils out of the copndry.

The mystery woman first contacted Janus in 1972 after he returned from a visit to China and offered a \$500,000 reward for information lead-ing to the recovery of the fossils.

Janus said the woman ar-ranged to meet him on the observation deck of the Em-

pire State Building. She showed him a photograph of a footlocker full of bones be-fore becoming alarmed at a man with a camera and fleeing from the building. He has not seen her since.

Janus said the woman was in her late 30s, dark and at-tractive with a slight Ger-man accent. She told him she was the widow of a Ma-tilde stationed in China at

the outbreak of the war. Among his war relics, she said, was a footlocker con-taining fossil bones he claimed were very valuable.

Janus later reestablished contact with the woman through a classified ad in the New York Times. She refused to meet with him again, but agreed to supply the photograph of the bones, which include a skull.

The photograph was ex-aminated by several experts, including Harry L. Shapiro, chairman emeritus of the department of anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History here.

"That skull is very, very interesting," Shapiro said in an interview. "I won't make any outright identification, but I will say it might well be worth something," said Shapiro.

A man identifying himself as Harrison Seng who said he was an attorney for the woman telephoned Janus to demand a letter from the State Department saying the cutoff for possessing the fossils.

Janus said the State De-partment provided a letter.

Last month, however, Seng telephoned Janus again to demand a written guaran-tee from China that it would make no legal claim against the woman. According to Janus, Chinese officials have balked at providing such a guarantee.

"We appear to be at a stalemate," said Janus, whose reward for informa-tion leading to the recovery of the fossils now stands at \$150,000. In addition, he said, he has available \$500,000 for the actual bones, which he would turn over to the State Department.