

Under Castro - Hochberg (C.H.)

8/15/76

Mr. Donald McLaughlin  
The National Enquirer  
600 South East Coast Ave.,  
Lantana, Fla. 33462

Dear Donald,

Sometimes I'm amused by them but generally I pay not attention to bullshit stories.

Your 8/17 story is an exception. The bullshit in it could make a really important story. And there is in it what is totally impossible. The more impossible, the larger the story, I am confident. I am also confident that, with patience, proofs are available.

When Bill was here and we had a little time to talk one proposal I made was that I be engaged on a retainer and be available in matters of this kind. Because I have heard nothing I've assumed the idea was not approved.

While I don't mind taking a few minutes to answer questions and be helpful to friends over the years + have spent a considerable amount of uncompensated time this way. When I was to have been compensated it has not always happened.

Bill and Rod are friends. Because they are friends there is no limit I would put on the time I spend with them and trying to help them on a personal basis.

If when Bill was here it was personal and not Enquirer business, which was not my impression, I would expect nothing for the several days of time. If it was Enquirer business and you were using me as a consultant, I do believe expecting a reasonable compensation for the time is not unreasonable.

Bill did take back a story proposal from me. <sup>Rejected</sup> For reasons entirely beyond my capability to explain in journalistic terms. When you told me the story had been turned down you said you would be sending me \$100 for that particular time. I have written about this and I have not received it. Similarly, although the records are confused and Rod was very much in the middle in an effort to straighten it out (which we appreciate much), we were able to straighten it out, it means that from about a year ago there is another \$100 due me, we went over this with Bill, he agreed and he said he would speak to the proper person. I have written about this also without response.

Having read this new story and knowing what some of those rejected are it is apparent that determinations are on a basis not unfamiliar to me, policy. Well, I can hardly single the Enquirer out for criticism on that basis. In context less than say the NYTimes or WxPost. But it does help me understand reality a little better.

Now if you want a followup on this one, how about a Dallas police report of an arrest of Ruby and Oswald - together? I have it. Just before the assassination.

There is nothing you are I can do with policy decisions except live with them, you in your way I in mine. I regret this much because without them there is truly superior journalism available to the Enquirer. I'm not approaching your competition on any of them for a number of reasons. One is that when there are these problems where I deal with really fine human beings and men of the most respectable (and here respected) professional credentials I can only expect worse elsewhere. Not at my age and with my medical and other problems. I'll do better to spend that time on my own work.

There appears to be no likelihood that anyone on the decision level will sit down and discuss any of this with me if only because they are too busy and have not yet come to the point in the paper's growth where substantial journalism that can be just as popular and attractive in the marketplace really means anything to them. Without something like this there will never be any interest in these kinds of stories.

There is something else on which Rod has tried hard and has done all he can.

I was to have received a copy of the Guinn report. You paid Guinn for it. To the best of Rod's knowledge, you have not received it. Yet the content was discussed with me so it has to be there somewhere.

I would like a copy very much, please. It can be important to me.

Soon I'll have to be reprinting one of my early books. I'll be using the film story Bill took back in it. It is a major story on this subject by any standard.

Best wishes,