

Tape of 3/11/65 Conversation with John Ledes, gen mgr, v.p.

PERMANENTLY
WILL FIVE

Recounted visit with Brown, described his work and lack of it and repeated his offer to withdraw, with release. When Ledes said "what do we do now" I told him I had most of book drafted and had delayed accepting Brown's offer until talking to him. We discussed organization, contents of book I would write. He gave me technical information, asked for immediate information on biography and first chapter to read. I promised by Monday (this was Thursday). On Brown he said, "I'll tell you what. Somehow along the way...we'll reimburse him, a sort of a flat fee for helping, that's all." I told him I would send rough outline of contents of chapters and could send some out of order. He said "right".

This was a lengthy conversation, more than half of a side of a five inch tape at 1 7/8 and includes considerable details of organization and contents of book, etc.

Thereafter called Larry. I said John "would be in touch with you, and about money", after saying I had decided to accept his offer to withdraw. Larry replied "okay". Larry then said "I've been thinking about it too and I think maybe you're right...it's the logical thing." I referred to his offer "to give me back everything?" and said "what I could use fastest" was "the drafts that I gave you because its from them I'll be working and some of my carbons dont contain what's on them." His reply was, "Well, why dont I do this:... take all your papers of every kind and send them back to you". He said he had them all there. He shg again "I'll do that". He then said, "I do think we should exchange letters holding each other, you know, without any liability or obligation". I agreed and said if he was more familiar with the proper form he could draft the letter. He said he's write a letter and I could sign the carbon and return it. I told him there was no problem with John and Ivan and that I had consulted them. He said he'd also get in touch with them and his last words were that he'd mail my material back "tomorrow"

(NEXT DAY)

His subsequent call changing his position follows on the same tape. The first brief part was not recorded. In this he insisted he had a contract with Obolensky. "I dont have any contract with you at all". After some discussion I again demanded the return of my materials, including drafts, photostats and clipping and told him these and the book itself were my property. He did not deny that the book was mine and of the materials said "I haven't any doubt that they are yours". He said it "ought to be liquidated in a proper fashion..." he said "I am sitting here with a manuscript I cannot possibly use because a good half of it is yours..." He refused to return anything to me until he heard from Obolensky, even after I told him I needed it right then.