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19 May 1967

Mr. Peter Osnos  
The Washington Post  
80 Haymarket  
London, S.W.1.

Dear Peter:

Our partners on the newsservice have formally, and not unwillingly, agreed that you may report and write for The Washington Post and the newsservice.

I thank you for being patient. I know you appreciate the reason for my caution.

We went over all of this some many times in London. Let me now review in writing what we so thoroughly discussed.

Mott is your immediate superior, and you must therefore obtain his approval before embarking on any assignment that will intrude on your newsservice job. I would be courteous and prudent, as well, if you would keep Mott generally informed when you are reporting or writing on your days off or your time off, or when you are writing for the Paris paper. If Mott needs you to work overtime on the newsservice that will necessarily take precedence over any assignment you have.

You also know that you must not take on an assignment unless you have Karl's approval and I am sure you will work under his guidance.

Again, you should fill in Al Friendly on your writing plans whenever he is in London, to be sure there is no over-tracking.

I personally hope that Mott will himself occasionally write, and he, as you, will have to clear his assignments through Karl.

At the present time, it will not be possible for me to pay you for your efforts. The question of space rates for you will be raised again soon, and I'll let you know if there is any change. This frees you from any obligation to clear your story ideas through me or the foreign desk. We can hardly require that you dance to our tune if we cannot pay you.

But if it is exposure you seek, I urge you to select your stories with care. The British Isles are not under-covered in the light of the state of the world and the space available in The Post to report it. We cannot expect to get a story by Karl, by Al, and by you, all dealing with domestic British affairs, all in the same day, and hope to accommodate them while war rages in Asia and the Middle East and a fourth of mankind in China is in convulsion.

The desk will treat you as a staffer insofar as it will advise you what happened to your story and why. We will try to throw ideas at Karl to pass on to you from time to time. But like our other staffers, we expect you to be a self-starter and come up with your own ideas.

Above all you must not slight the newsservice. I raise this once again only because I understand what a temptation it will be for you to devote ever more time and effort to your first love -- reporting.

You may someday wish to cross the ocean and join our staff. I tell you now that what will count most with me, is not so much the quality of your reporting and writing as, and I presume with others whose recommendations would be weighed, your record on the newsservice.

We are locked in a struggle with the Times newsservice and we do not mean to lose it. Your work as a sometime reporter may be valued. Your work on the newsservice is essential.

I am not suggesting that you do not work faithfully and well. But while the newsservice now has your competence and attention, it must also have your uninhibited enthusiasm. You must try by every device, under Mott's direction, to get news-service stories used by clients.

Also, the events of the past week in Paris, and new developments on the horizon, may mean more work for you outside of reporting. A more meticulous monitoring of the British papers, the possibility of an association with the daily Times, the fruitful developments on the Sunday Times with Chapman, hopefully new newsservice clients, and many other responsibilities and opportunities will fill your days.

When Karl ~~needs~~<sup>needs</sup> help badly, I'm sure that Mott will do all he can to free you. But I honestly expect that a story or possibly two a week would be about maximum.

The LATimes made only one request, ~~which~~<sup>which</sup> Keith, of course, endorses completely: no story of yours may be put on the newsservice, European or domestic, over a story by a Post or LATimes staffer. I'm sure you understand the need for this.

I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed renewing our acquaintance. I enjoyed immensely our bull sessions, and I hope we can meet again soon.

Warmest regards,

Philip Foisie  
Foreign Editor

PF/ct

cc: Mr. Meyer  
Mr. Mott  
Mr. Keith