

The Washington Post

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26 November 1971

Dear Phil,

As I sit here weeping over the depressed state of my Washington Post stock, how can I but share your concern over our budgetary plight. And heavens knows the last thing I want to see happen is the closure of foreign bureaus that I covet. In short, I will be dutifully prudent in all future expenditures.

That being said, however, there are the two specific matters in your letter: the \$80 for the cocktail party and the \$114 for the plane ticket. The party, although useful, was an extravagance, and I would be content to pay for that. The R&R, on the other hand, is a matter of principle.

We will pay

Our understanding has been that R&R's should not run to more than \$849, including plane fare and hotels wherever we might go. The Kathmandu trip came to considerably less than that, a total of \$691.47. Ten days in Hong Kong has to be more expensive than a week in Kathmandu, even if the airfare is more.

If we are going to follow strictly the rule of plane tickets costing no more than the price to Hong Kong, then I suggest that it be applied in the future rather than retroactively.

Another money matter (curse it all). I am in the process of getting a new multiple entry visa here, meaning that I will have to pay income taxes here, a total of about \$100 for the next year. The benefit of a multiple entry visa is that you don't have to wait a day or two for an exit visa, don't have to waste a day wherever you are getting a re-entry visa, and generally being able to move about freely. What I'm asking is whether the Post will pay the tax. It is not likely over the long haul to be any more expensive than what we have to pay for individual visas and bribes to reluctant bureaucrats.


Mr. Philip Foisie

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If you've read this far, our fiscal problems must be really serious.

Best regards,



Peter Osnos

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