

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

New York, KM hat sich verschrieben und gibt deshalb 1941 an

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The Bedford
118 EAST 40TH STREET
NEW YORK

January 17 , 1941

Dear Mr. Ascoli,

Believe me, please, that I hate to bother you, once again. I would not continue this correspondence, if the issue at stake were a private hobby of mine. But I have no right nor reason to consider "Decision" a private hobby. Too many people are involved - too many have made sacrifices. All those who have pledged or already invested money, are entitled to expect the utmost truthfulness and preciseness from me. I have told my friends and the friends of the magazine that I can count on your support. How could I now explain the change of your attitude? I don't like to be called a liar.

I must, therefore, beg you to reconsider your letter which seems to annul your pledge. You may allow me briefly to analyse the arguments which, in your opinion, justify your withdrawal.

1.) The conditio sine qua non for your contribution is "a reorganization of Decision - and the reorganization is a complex and thorough-going affair." I agree with you in respect of the the latter point. It so happens that I am engaged, already for several months, in preparing and carrying out precisely this sort

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of complex and thorough-going effort. The editorial staff, the promotion methods, the lay-out - almost the entire apparatus and policy of the magazine have been, or are being, reorganized. The details proving this statement are at your disposal.

2.) You wrote me, as far back as May 23, 1941, that you are "ready to enter into a combination with other people who intend to refinance your magazine and up to a certain limit, to match funds with these other people." Since that time six issues of Decision have been published, among them one double issue; the seventh is with the press at this very moment. An amount of at least \$8000 has been put at our disposal by various friends and sponsors. *) You did not want to join them as all these contributions were made on a "from-month-to-month" basis. I appreciated your point of view. The only point that intrigued me was that you never indicated the exact amount you may be willing to give, if and when a scheme of financial reorganization could be carried out. For a while I dared hope that you might match as large an investment as that of Mr. Curtiss, who has given us about

*) This sum only includes the contributions granted to us from June until November, 1941.

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\$ 3000 during the summer and fall, and pledged another 2000, or the promised contribution of Mr. Macpherson - \$ 5000.

However, I had no right to be disappointed when you explained to my father that your investment could not exceed the limit of \$ 1500 or 2000.

3.) You are under the impression that "Decision is still on the month-to-month basis... and that the help you have received so far... has been used just as the help I gave you several months ago." - I am sorry - or happy - to state that this time the misconception is, indeed, on your part. - As I tried to point out to you, last December, I have reason to believe ~~that~~, according to our recent and precise calculations, that ~~an~~ \$ 10.000 will be sufficient to carry us through this year. (I first thought that \$ 18.000 might be necessary but various newly adopted methods and altered circumstances have convinced my business manager and myself that we could get along with \$ 10.000.)

These necessary funds have been pledged to me by the following people:

\$ 5000	Kenneth Macpherson
2000 ²⁰⁰⁰	Thomas Quinn Curtiss
1500	Max Ascoli
1000	Marshall Field
500	Edgar Kaufmann Jr.
250	Charles Rosenbloom
500	Small pledges (Bruno Walter, Mrs. Margaret Lewisohn)
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(This survey does not include a contribution of \$1000 I received from my father about five weeks ago to meet various overdue obligations.)

The following contributions have meanwhile been received and spent by the organization: \$1000 from Mr. Field, \$500 from Mr. Kaufmann, \$250 from Mr. Rosenbloom, \$500 from Mr. Curtiss and, finally, \$500 from Professor Walter and Mrs. Lewisohn. These sums were employed for finance, the print of the December issue and the forthcoming number. Besides, the beginning of a new year inevitably involves special expenses for promotion efforts etc. However, the larger part of the total pledge - namely, \$8000, including your own contribution - has not yet been touched. ~~except~~ Mr. Curtiss wants to pay in four instalments. As for Mr. Macpherson, I already mentioned that I cannot count on his check for a number of weeks to come.

I do not think that these figures justify to speak of a "month-to-month basis" on which the magazine ostensibly operates.

4.) You request "some guarantee and a machinery for the spending of that money." This sounds like an interesting suggestion. Up to now our "machinery" consisted of an accountant who keeps our books in order; a lawyer who

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supervises our business policy, a business manager, a secretary, etc. As for the "guarantees" which you claim, I may mention that our books are ^{open} to every stockholder or sponsor. The rather numerous group of our stockholders is apparently satisfied with these primitive guarantees, among which some naive sponsors may even include the personal integrity of the editor. However, I would be only too happy to consider most carefully any specific suggestion you may have to make in this context.

5.) Finally you suggest that "some check on editorial policy" is required. Here, too, I would appreciate any more specific advice. As I ~~know~~ know that we agree upon all basic principles, I am eager to learn what details of my editorial policy you deem unsatisfactory. You seem to forget that your name appears among those who have accepted to act as my "advisors." I admit that I fail to grasp the differentiation between "editorial advice" and "some check on editorial policy." - Incidentally, it is only some days ago that I wrote you how pleased I would be to renew our personal contact and to discuss with you my editorial projects.

I hope that I may have succeeded in giving you a fairly clear picture of our present status. The plain truth is that

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the situation lives up to the requirements repeatedly defined by yourself.

I am deeply embarrassed that I have to insist on the fulfillment of a promise that was given to me out of kindness and for the sake of an idealistic proposition. I would, in fact, much rather sacrifice the magazine than to urge you, if you had explained your reluctance with the change of general or personal conditions. But I cannot and must not accept the explanation as you chose to formulate it in your recent note. I felt it my duty to rectify the mistakes on which your refusal is based.

I am confident that my arguments may seem convincing to you, and hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Klaus Mann.