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Mann, Erika

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Erika Mann

February 2, 1950

Mr. W. Colston Leigh, President
521 Fifth Avenue
New York City

** upon my return
from Europe.*

Dear Bill:

Let me thank you most cordially for your kind and understanding letter. I had been anticipating nothing else.

While I was still waiting for news from you, my father fell ill (nothing serious, but annoying and time-devouring) and is hence unable to keep a promise he had made to some group in Palos Verdes where he was to appear on February 19th. I agreed to go in his place, although there is but "100 tip involved. I realize, of course, that you could not possibly have accepted any such date for me. But since, as stated before, I would not dream of fooling around with another agent ("If you can't do it who on earth could?"), I might pick up a date here and there that may offer itself.* The Palos Verdes people have asked for a mat and "any publicity material, such as data concerning your life and accomplishments, which we might use in our newspapers and our posters".

Now what I'd like to suggest is this: Would you let me have whatever mats there are and a number (say 20 or 30) of our current publicity folders? The stuff is of no value to you, yet I doubt whether I should survive the boredom of having to compose a similar "story" for Palos Verdes. In exchange I'd be glad to share with you 50/50 the Palos Verdes midget fee. Needless to say I shall advise the gentlemen there that I am no longer under your auspices but that the material minus your name may be used nevertheless.

As time is of the essence I'd much appreciate it if one of the ladies would send one mat and one folder directly and by airmail (stamps enclosed, envelope not enclosed, as I don't know what size it ought to be). Address: Mr. Paul A. Reeder, 1749 Palos Verdes Drive West, Palos Verdes Estates, California.

Unless I hear from you to the contrary, I shall assume my proposal to have been accepted. Thanks again for all and everything.

Yours as ever cordially

Erika Mann.