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Erika Mann
XXXXXX

February 23, 1949

Mr. Burnet Hershey
AWCA
13 West 54th Street
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Hershey:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 23rd, receipt of which I hesitated to confirm pending the arrival of news from above. Enclosed please find two communications from those in power. They both would seem to bear out Mr. Ernst's contention according to which a reprimand would be "a procedure running counter to our policy of seeking wide freedom of expression." That such freedom should embrace "License to Libel" remains a shocking discovery. I shall now have to sue, but cannot even be certain whether either the American Attorney General in Germany (my first choice) or the M.G. authority who would have to authorize a German criminal court to handle the case will be found willing to act. I am all the more disgusted since I have learned that the weekly in question ("Echo der Woche", Munich) employs as its music and cultural critic a man named von Schmidt-Pauli, who happens to be one of the earliest, dirtiest and most notorious Nazis in German journalism, - a bloke who wrote no less than three books glorifying Hitler, and who started his career as the Fuehrer's pet biographer even before the latter had been made the Reich's chancellor.

Your letter seems to indicate that there is nothing more which the AWCA can do. And actually, I would not myself know just what to suggest. Should, in the course of the trial - if there is a trial - any new development occur which you might be helpful with I would take the liberty of letting you know. Perhaps - and this comes only now to my mind - you might wish to back my application to the American Attorney General in Germany. If so, would you kindly tell me so as soon as possible, - or, even better, send me such a letter at your earliest convenience? All that I should like you to say would be that you consider this case of grave importance to the AWCA and that you ~~XXXXX~~ strongly recommend favorable consideration of my request. Maybe Morris Ernst would know the Attorney General's name. Because I don't.

Kindest regards and many thanks for the trouble you are taking.

Yours cordially

Erika Mann.