April 28, 1926.

Miss Louise Sillcox, Secretary,
The Authors' League of America, Inc.,
2 East 23rd Street, New York, N. Y.

My dear Miss Sillcox:

Your letter of the 24th in regard to the Cosmos Newspaper Syndicate has been forwarded to me here. You say that my name is on their letterhead as a member of the editorial board. I had quite forgotten that that was so. This has been my connection. When Mr. Herbert Houston founded the syndicate he asked me to cooperate. I was interested in the idea, but told him that my cooperation would have to be very limited, that I could give no attention to the general editorial policy or its execution. It was arranged that I should write him an occasional 400 word editorial, whenever anything came up in the oil world that seemed to deserve comment. At that time the oil scandal was running strong and I did write for Mr. Houston several short articles.

I understood perfectly that it was going to take time to put the syndicate on a firm financial basis and that in all probability the payments would be delayed. Mine have been, but I havenpot complained, because I knew that they were in the pioneer period through which undertakings of that kind must pass. You see I was willing to risk something for the sake of making a little contribution toward establishing a service which would handle briefly and correctly on a basis of fact serious co-temporary public problems, national and international.

Of course I do not know that other contributing editors (that has been my only relationship) felt the same as I did about the matter.

I am confident there has been no dishonesty. There may have been over confidence in the idea. I think

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If I were in your place I should have a frank talk with Mr. Houston about the matter. Tell him, if you wish, that I suggested it. Find out just what the situation is and what reason he has for thinking that he can go on. It is my opinion that he has been too generous with his contributors. No other syndicate of which I know assures a writer, (except the famous Droolist) an assured weekly sum. You make your contract 50/50 basis, and it's very rare, indeed, that that nets you for 400 word articles anything like the $50 which I believe Mr. Houston's writers receive.

Go and talk to him and if you wish, show him this letter. I should not want you to use this in any public way, of course, at least without consulting Mr. Houston, in whose good intentions I have all confidence.

Yours very sincerely,

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