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Dear Emma:

I imagine you were pretty much disgusted with my letter full of my personal troubles, the time you arrived in London from Spain. When Helen and I got to France from Barcelona in May 37 we had been so conditioned to the idealism and heroism (not to say semi-starvation) of the Spanish people that everything we saw hurt us: the people gay and carefree, the people stuffing themselves with food. It was another world, and a lousy one. Eventually of course this first reaction wore down, and we lost our resentment. And I hope that you will not think badly of me for troubling you again.

Dr. Balabanoff got \$1,000 from the magazine Ken, in the first of her two suits. Her lawyer got \$500 plus expenses, so I suppose she did not profit much. ~~She~~ She then told her lawyer that if I would write her a letter explaining what happened she would drop the suit against me. I did so. I said that I had sent her Mss to Ken in the hope of making her \$100, which they sent her; and that I had changed a few words to improve the English. The headline was not mine. I was therefore not guilty of any illegal or unethical action. I concluded by asking her to drop the matter inasmuch as after all we are both still on the same side of the barricades. I understood the matter was satisfactory.

On November 14 my new book, Lords of the Press, appeared. It was highly advertised. Shortly afterwards I was informed that Dr. B. was pressing her suit. My lawyer ^{George Baller} understands that her lawyer saw the possibility ^{of a considerable} ~~of a~~ considerable shakedown because he believes that a book makes a writer a rich man.

Yesterday I heard that Dr. B. has stated that she is really not after the money, but wants to punish me, and give the money to Italian refugees. As I wrote you, I had proposed back in 1936 to let Harper Bros. decide how much money I owed for the help she ~~me~~ gave me in 1931 and for which she then insisted she wanted no pay, also for the material which I quoted verbatim. I still think that the fairest thing. I have made just about \$30 a week out of all the books I have written, which is not quite a living. I made very little on Sawdust Caesar. But I am willing to let anyone judge the amount I owe her. As it is, both of us will spend considerable on the courts, and I will never drop this suit, because I think it is vicious and I know that so far as she is concerned, her lawyer will make much more out of it than herself.

She has an obsession that I did something wrong, cheated her, etc. I do not have to tell you that all I did was to give her favorable publicity, help sell her book, sell her article at a time I thought she was starving -- and the result has been a horrible mess.

I do not know whether a letter from you to her would help. Her address was Hotel Park Plaza, 50 West 77. If you think it advisable, please write her

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The Ken story is a long one which I hope to tell you sometime: I was hired to edit a free magazine, by some Jewish millionaires; anti-fascist, left of center, etc. I could not believe it was

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3

true -- and it wasn't. Month before it came out they changed their policy to redbaiting, anti-labor etc. Hemingway, DeKruif, myself, others, were fooled; all of us resigned. Meanwhile, however, there were dozens of articles which were not too radical for them to use, and they used Dr. B's chiefly because it was anti-soviets.

Since returning to America Helen and I have given all our time (outside the writing of books) to the Spanish cause. It has been a big fight, mainly against the Catholics. (Now I am writing a book on the Catholics). Last week, however, the Gallup Institute of Public Opinion which takes the most reliable polls, found out that 30% of the Catholics had no opinion, 58% are for Franco, and 42% against Franco. This is already an amazing thing, in a country where the Hierarchy is 100% Francoist. Moreover, Catholics tell me that the 30% which refused to vote is certainly anti-Franco, which would make the Catholic rank and file 70% against Franco despite the Pope, the Catholic press, every priest, and tremendous propaganda.

I never see Gilbert; his wife is the cause. The Herschs sailed for Paris today and will probably write you. Harry Kelly was in yesterday. No other news. I do hope you will be able to land in the US again. Right now, as you must know, there is a terrific anti-red, anti-alien antisemitic campaign, the likes of which has not been seen since 1920. Best wishes, good luck, and adios
GSE