

July 9, 1956

Dear Grete: -

Your latest letter of June 28th is before me and may I point out that you are wrong when you say that "a considerable part of this matter was some rather hectic last minute decisions". I tried to outline for you briefly the chain of events which led up to the Illinois Bell's coming up to my figure; there was no last minute decision on my part, for once they finally made the offer which I had been waiting for, I concluded the deal with them. I have no doubt that had I not been preparing to leave town, they would have continued to try to get the property for less, but once they knew that I was leaving they decided to conclude the matter then and there. At that time, I felt morally and legally capable of closing the deal verbally for you had not yet had your change of heart about revoking the power of attorney.

I can well understand your rather sudden change of heart and feeling of sentiment about the house at 212, Grete. But, please be realistic about it and admit that this is the very first time you have ever evinced any interest to me in wishing to return to Wheaton to make your home. Jean and I did a lot of soul-searching before we decided to look elsewhere, and as I told you last winter when you were home we had decided that our future would very probably be somewhere other than in the Chicago area. At that time you said not one word about contemplating a return to Wheaton. And I cannot accept your explanation that you did not have an opportunity to discuss the matter with me due to the competition of television! That is a pretty childish statement coming from a grown man! You were with us for several weeks and you found plenty of opportunity to tell me about your activities in Australia and Hawaii - and your contemplated joining up with the Canadian outfit or some phase of the government's program. You did not mention any desire to keep the house for your own use. All it would have taken was a word from you and we could easily have discussed anything you had on your mind. As it was, you showed very little inclination to discuss or listen to my plans - even though they had not jelled at that time, for I well recall the one evening when I tried to tell you what I had in mind and you suddenly decided you were going to bed! As I recall, Jean and I did not have a very active social season this past Christmas - we spent every evening at home (you may recall that she had the touch of pleurisy while you were there) and surely, had you any wish to talk to me you could easily have done so.

The very first concrete mention of your wanting to return to the house in Wheaton came in your letter of June 13th -- following which I wrote you and gave you the estimated costs as I had gathered them and told you that I was in complete accord with your wish to move the house, if that was what you want to do.

Some months ago I wrote you and told you that I would consider taking the gamble and moving the house myself - OR I would also be glad to have you as a partner in the house-moving operation, to share the expense and the profits. Your letter of June 28th seems to be rather amused at the price I have established for my share of the house. If you will re-read my letter of June 19th you will be able to see how I arrived at that figure. I have offered you an opportunity to share in the profit to be made by moving the house; I do not feel it is an unreasonable request on my part to expect the same offer from you. Granted that a profit can be realized from such an undertaking, then I shall be glad to sell you my share of the house for the figure I quoted - \$3500.

You state that you favor getting on with this matter and I heartily concur. The delay has not been caused by any indecision on my part, may I point out. It is your change of heart which has caused the delay -- and the delay has already proved to be expensive.

Your letter of the 14th inquires about certain items of furniture which you now say you have an interest in and want put into storage for you. Why did you wait till this late date to bring up that subject? At Christmas time I asked you to make some arrangements about storing anything you wanted -- you went to see Hahn and told me to send your things there when we left. This I did; and I wrote you on March 18th and outlined just what had been sent to storage - told you we were sending a few other things to storage before we moved and told you what these items were. I then wrote in that same letter: "SHOULD THERE BE ANY OTHER ITEMS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WHICH YOU THINK OF THAT WE HAVE POSSIBLY OVERLOOKED, PLEASE LET ME KNOW." The only thing you let me know about was the equipment in the garage, which I had Hahn pick up immediately. You never once mentioned any furniture, Grete, so naturally I did not feel justified in sending a lot of heavy furniture into storage to be paid for by you. Neither did I dispose of any of it; it is all right here in Louisville; everything you mention in your

June 14th letter. Had you had the courtesy to let me know back in March - or April - or May that you wanted any of the furniture put into storage for you, it would have been a simple thing for me to have had Hahn pick it up. Now it is not quite so simple; namely, there will be additional expense involved in getting the furniture back to Wheaton and into Hahn's storage rooms.

My having the furniture brought down to Louisville did not in any way mean that I was claiming it or that I was stealing it from you, as your letter implies. And, I might point out, as your subsequent letter to Bert so clearly implied. If you want any of the furniture, it is yours for the cost of shipping it back to Wheaton; had you spoken up sooner, there would have been considerably less expense for you involved. And also for me, since mine was the expense of dragging the stuff to Louisville.

It seems to me, Grete, that all the problems which now exist with respect to selling the property, moving the house, and disposing of the furniture, exist due to your having changed your mind again. I have become somewhat used to the fact that you have a proclivity for changing your mind. That is certainly your privilege; however, when changing your mind so obviously affects other people then I do not feel that you have any cause to get so riled up and to immediately assume that someone has done you wrong. You are not the only one to be considered in this matter; there is the telephone company and all their people who are busy trying to complete their new building; there is Bert and the phone company agent who spent so many many hours getting this deal set up; and last, but far from least, there is myself and my family.

Has it occurred to you, Grete, that when I left Wheaton I left thinking that I had made a fine deal with IBT -- fine for you as well as for me. Furthermore, I had agreed to purchase a new home in Louisville for my family, thinking that within a matter of weeks I would have a certain amount of cash proceeds from the sale of the Wheaton property. I had scarcely arrived in Louisville when I was tersely informed by you that you had decided to cancel the Power of Attorney. You may not realize it, but this put me in a severe spot; I had negotiated a deal in good faith and now you were putting me behind the eight ball and making it impossible for me to make good on the deal. There then came weeks of delay

with you thousands of miles away and me up here wondering just what you had in mind. Finally you wrote that you would sign the contract and that you thought the price fantastically high. Mere telegrams to Bert - mere time informing the phone company that the deal is still on. Then came your curt letter saying you had changed your mind again. And your suspicious note about what had happened to the furniture. AND, your highly unwarranted letter to Bert telling him that I had left without making a proper accounting to you!

When I received your letter of June 14th, I was highly disturbed. Not only because you were throwing a monkey-wrench into the fine deal I'd set up with IBT, but also because you were implying that I was not on the level in acting on your behalf. And that I had somehow robbed you of a few pieces of furniture! I got on the phone to tell Bert that you had changed your mind, and then discovered that you had also written to him -- casting extreme doubt on my integrity! I had every intention of writing you immediately - and it would not have been a very cordial letter. But Bert suggested that he would write you and that I should not do so until he or I had heard from you again. He then sent you a letter (copy to me) and the contract.

Both Bert and I had hoped that you would realize that you were standing in the way of making this deal and would sign the contract. Your letter of June 28th now tells me that you will "keep them safely until we get some of these other matters organized". Frankly, Grete, I cannot see any correlation between signing the contract to sell the property and the matter of the furniture. I've told you that the furniture can be returned to Wheaton if you want it that way; and I have also told you on the 19th that the house is yours to move wherever you want it, if you wish to buy my share. Bert has told you that this deal with IBT is the best deal we could hope for - within the next 20 years! Yet you still maintain that you want to hold it up until your return at some indefinite time in the fall or winter!

Then, after impugning my integrity to me and to Bert, you now write me to get a lot of dope about lots in Wheaton for you! I'm sorry, but I have no wish to act as your agent in any matter whatsoever in the future, Grete. I've

had enough! I am no longer in Wheaton, you know, and I'm sure that if you write to Bert or someone else in Wheaton you will be able to find someone to act as your agent - for a fee, possibly - in getting the dope you want. While I'm on that subject, I wish you would also immediately send the Wheaton post office and the Harris a new forwarding address. Your mail has been coming here, since Jean filled in the card you requested her to fill in and sent it to the Harris before we moved down here. But in view of the current situation, I find that I do not wish to be held responsible for even one letter of yours. Last Christmas I had my ears pinned back by you because you thought I'd lost some piece of mail; I don't wish to subject myself to any more of your suspicious criticism. So, please, let me know immediately where you wish me to send all the mail which has accumulated; and also inform the postal authorities where you want things to go in the future. I do not want them to come here.

I am at a loss to understand your attitude, Grete. If it is occasioned by a sudden sentimental attachment for Wheaton, this I could understand; but you must admit that it is not my fault that you no longer make your home there. I repeat; if you want to continue to live in the house in Wheaton, that's fine with me. Only you have to make up your own mind; I can't make it up for you. I've made my choice and I've made my move; and I might tell you that your unpleasantness has caused me and my family a good bit of nervous tension during the past two months. I would hate to believe that your actions and your suspicions are aimed at trying to make our lives miserable; they have certainly had that effect, no matter what the intention.

I hope that you will reappraise your own emotions and your own wishes on this whole matter and give me a mature opinion as to what you want to do. I feel that your accusations and your indecision are very childish, and hardly worthy of your judgment. I have tried to do what would be good for you as well as for me. Having your power of attorney was, to me, an obligation to try to make as good a deal as possible. I feel sure that I did that. I asked you what you wanted sent to storage; and I sent every item you mentioned. Surely you cannot hold me responsible for the fact that three months later you

suddenly decide you want some other things sent into storage too! Have a little consideration for the other fellow, Grete; I tried to do what you wanted. I cannot read your mind, tho' I can read your letters and what I read there does not please me one bit. I strongly resent your suspicions and the fact that you even went so far as to write to Bert and question my integrity on this whole matter! Surely I am justified in expecting an apology from you - with a copy to Bert!

This whole matter has dragged on for months now - leaving me in a spot where my integrity with the IBT company has been put in considerable doubt; where my plans for myself and my family are left high up in the air just waiting for you to decide what you want to do and when. In the meantime, IBT may well give up the ghost and decide they don't want to wait any longer. Have you thought of that? And where does that leave me? You told Bert you had no use for the money and did not intend to turn handsprings to get it. No one is asking you to turn handsprings; we are merely expecting you to go through with the deal which was made in good faith.

Bert did not mention it in his letter to you, Grete, and it may come to you as something of a shock. But I wish to tell you now that when I spoke to him on the phone he told me that this deal with the phone company was too good a deal to miss. That waiting until fall or winter would very likely queer the deal; they have been extremely patient with you up to now, but that can't last forever. No one else will pay anywhere near what they will pay. And on top of their price, the house is still available to be moved either for your use or resold for a profit. Therefore, it was Bert's advice to me that if you continue to hold up the deal, that I proceed to get a Court Order to have the property partitioned.....sold, so that the proceeds can be divided. I told Bert that I did not want to do that at this time, for it seems to me too bad to have to drag this thing through a court. But I am now convinced that your motives are not friendly toward me, Grete; that you are completely overlooking my interest in this matter. And therefore, if you persist in delaying the signing of the contract I intend to tell Bert to go ahead with the Court Order.

I am sure that this may come as somewhat of a shock to you, Grete, but I feel that it must be done. I do not feel that I can sit around and wait for you to vacillate any further. I have no intention of standing in your way one bit with respect to your moving the house, as I've told you. As for the furniture, you are welcome to any of it that you want to pay to send back to Wheaton.

As I said before, I had earnestly hoped that you would realize that you are not alone in this matter -- that there are others to be considered and that we cannot all sit around and wait until you return from Australia before going about our lives. But apparently you do not choose to think about anyone but yourself. Even in thinking of yourself, you are cutting your own throat by delaying further; we have been advised that one of the desirable lots on Jewel Road has been sold since we did not go through with our intention of purchasing it several weeks or a month ago. I would strongly recommend that you make up your mind what you want to do about the house, for once the property is sold the house must be removed. And I am sure, as I said, that you can find someone in Wheaton to handle it for you. I am not available to do so.

I feel that you have had ample time to consider all this and if you do not decide to go ahead with the deal and sign the contract and return it to Bert within the next two weeks, I shall ask Bert to get a Court Order to partition the property. Two weeks from today will be July 23rd; I do not believe that I can wait any longer than that date.

Believe me, Grete, this is in no way intended to be a threat of any kind; it is simply a way of partitioning the property so that it will no longer be a joint venture. Under the circumstances, and in view of your attitude and your lack of faith in me, I feel that any further joint venture is to be discouraged. Please advise me about where you want your mail sent; and also let me know what you want to do about the furniture. And, I repeat, I honestly believe that I have acted in your best interests - and that you owe me an apology.

Schuyler