

May 28, 1924.

Judge Claude L. Chambers,
U. S. National Bank Bldg.,
San Diego, California.

My dear Judge Chambers:

It has been reported to me that Mr. McLeod took a check for \$750.00, cashed it, getting the money under false pretenses and stood a chance of going to the penitentiary, and this is a compromise he has made with those people.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

cc White

CLAUDE L. CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

June 2, 1924

Mr. Ed. Fletcher
Box 1412
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 28th, with inclosed copies of letters.

In reply will say that after I ascertained from the watchman that the W.H. Hall and Arthur Maud people expected to take possession of the studio under some sort of an arrangement with McLeod, I left orders with him not to let anyone in until he had instructions from the Board of Trustees.

After having given him these instructions, Mr. Hall and the other gentleman called at my office. I told them that we had no objections to their going into the studio to work, but it must be the positive and distinct understanding that after June 15th should McLeod fall down on his proposition, they would have to do business direct with us, and pay the Trustees the rental for the studio. They promised me that they would not make any arrangements with Mr. McLeod beyond that date, and that they fully understood our position and would do business with us after June 15th, provided McLeod fell down on his contract; further, that they would not pay McLeod any more money until they were satisfied that he would be able to carry out the conditions of his lease.

They seem to be about the most business-like outfit that I have had occasion to talk with in the picture matter.

Very truly yours,

Claude L. Chambers
cc AB.

CLC/B

BOARD OF DIRECTORS "UNITED PRODUCERS AND DISTRIBUTORS" INC:

Dr. G. Roy Ringo, President & Chairman of the Board of Directors a retired capitalist of Chicago.

R. E. Elwood, Secretary & Director, was for years director of sales for the Vesuvian Crucible Company of Pittsburg, Pa.

F. O. Leonard, Treasurer & Director, who is Vice-president of the North American Bond & Mortgage Co., a two million dollar concern of Hollywood, California; Treasurer & Director of the Guarantee Building & Loan Ass'n., a five million dollar concern. President of the Playground Department of the City of Los Angeles for the past six years, and proprietor of Leonard's Book & Art Galleries of Hollywood.

Gilbert H. Beesmeyer, Asst Secretary & Treasurer., one of the ranking financial men of the coast, now Secretary & Manager of the Guarantee Building & Loan Ass'n., President & Director of the Central Commercial & Savings Bank of Hollywood, and who for many years was the cashier of the Hollywood National Bank of Hollywood California.

C. J. Shepherd, Manager of the Federal Reserve Bank, Los Angeles District.

Orville L. Rutt, Vice-President & Director of the North American Bond & Mortgage Co. of Hollywood, and President of the Pioneer Lumber Co. of Hollywood, California, and

Mr. Washburn, member of the Washburn-Crosby flour mills family.

original to Judge Chambers to put with other papers of Hawkins and Kennedy which he has.

June 18, 1924 .

Judge Claude Chambers,
U.S. National Bank Bldg.,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Judge:

I gave you some papers relative to Hawkins and Kennedy.

Enclosed find name of Board of Directors of the United Producers and Distributors, Inc. It seems to me they are a mighty strong bunch. Please keep all the papers together.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

June 26, 1924.

Judge Claude Chambers,
U. S. National Bank Bldg.,
San Diego, California.

My dear Judge Chambers:

Mr. White has requested us to cover the S. L. Studios for \$20,000 fire insurance. The rate is now 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % but is unclassified, and we are asking the surveyors to classify and give us a special rating.

Mr. White tells us that the \$500 to cover this insurance is to be paid on August first by the people who are now leasing the studio. If this is not according to your understanding kindly advise.

Yours very truly,

MEF:AH

Miss Fletcher

CLAUDE L. CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

June 27, 1924

Mr. Ed. Fletcher
Fletcher Bldg., 920 - 8th Street
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

Replying to your communication of June 26th, will say that Mr. White is correct. The lease provides that \$500.00 shall be paid on or before August 1st, 1924, to apply on insurance, and an amount not to exceed \$500.00 on or before February 1st, 1925. And the sum of not to exceed \$1000.00 per year each year during the lease hold period.

Very truly yours,

Claude L. Chambers

CLC/B

July 1, 1924.

S. L. Studios,
c/o Judge Claude Chambers,
U. S. National Bank Bldg.,
San Diego, Calif.

Gentlemen:

The Palatine Insurance
Company have asked us to cancel the \$20,000
policy which we wrote for you as of date of June 30th.
We have taken the matter up with them and given them
a better description of the property, and hope that
we may be able to have them reconsider it.

Will notify you of their decision
tomorrow.

Yours very truly,

MRP:AH

July 3, 1924.

Judge Claude C. Chambers,
U. S. National Bank Bldg.,
San Diego, California.

My dear Judge:

A friend of mine who has been for years in
the moving picture business just informed me that his
expert has informed him that the roof of the S. L.
Studios is not properly constructed, in that the roof
is so heavy that it is liable to cave in at any time
unless properly reinforced with steel girders. There
is liable to be a catastrophe.

We should at the next meeting of the Board
of Trustees arrange to have some competent man make
an investigation and report on this matter.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

July 11, 1924.

Judge Claude Chambers,
U. S. National Bank Bldg.,
San Diego, California.

My dear Judge:

I feel that we should immediately render an account of our stewardship and let the S. L. Studio stockholders know what we have found.

My suggestion is that you come over to the office and together we will dictate a letter to the stockholders giving a synopsis of the situation to date and ask them to take some of the responsibility in deciding whether to prosecute Sawyer or to fight and annul the former trustees' contract with Sawyer. If you will come over here any afternoon after business hours we will lock the doors and prepare a statement if this meets your approval.

Yours very truly,

EF:AH

July 14, 1924.

Judge Claude Chambers,
U. S. National Bank Bldg.,
San Diego, California.

My dear Judge:

Inclosed find guaranty on Newman clock which I installed last Saturday at S. L. Studios. The bottom half of this guaranty should be signed by you and sent to the clock company in the self addressed envelope contained herein for their records.

Also inclosed is a sample watchman's daily inspection report. I believe it would be advisable if we had a year's supply of these as the cost is only \$3.00, and in that way we could have a systematic report and check on the watchman's duties.

I installed the nine stations Saturday as per instructions, and the watchmen are supposed to be making their rounds now.

Sincerely yours,

Ed Fletcher Jr.

EFjr/AH

July 14, 1924.

Judge Claude Chambers,
U. S. National Bank Bldg.,
San Diego, California.

My dear Judge Chambers:

My superintendent tested the water pressure at the S. L. Studios and found it to be 97½ pounds. The pressure is ample for fire purposes but the pipes are so small that it is impossible to get any volume of water thru them. With a 5/8" nozzle we could only throw a stream 25 feet high.

The only way to get ample fire protection is to install a 4" line about 1200 to 1400 feet in length. If the S. L. Studios will furnish the pipe we will furnish the engineering, dig the trenches, and do the back filling free of charge. The pipe is worth about 55¢ a foot.

Yours very truly,

GUYANAGA WATER COMPANY,

Per _____

Manager.

EF:AH

cc - Mr. White

CLAUDE L. CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

July 15, 1924

Mr. Ed. Fletcher, Jr.,
Fletcher Bldg., 920 Eighth Street
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

In reply to your communication of July 14th, would say that I received the inclosed guaranty on Newman clock which you installed at the S.L. Studios. I am signing same and forwarding it to the clock Company today, as per your suggestion.

I am glad to know that these clocks are installed, as a matter of protection for the studio.

Very truly yours,

Claude L. Chambers

CLC/B

*Best time
over*

Nelson

Sternes

Halley

La Mesa

dist tent

reservoir

~~condem~~

~~cold~~

~~Spring~~

~~Schroder~~

~~Swing~~

Sample

Cronch Mason

Hall El Capitan

~~Switzer~~

~~Spencer~~

CLAUDE L. CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

July 15, 1924

In Re: S.L. Studios Water Equipment

Cuyamaca Water Company
Fletcher Building, 920 Eighth Street
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

Your letter of July 14th in regard to the above-entitled matter at hand. I think arrangements should be made to have this matter attended to at once, and I believe the funds on hand would justify the expenditure for the pipe suggested by you at the present time.

If agreeable to the other directors, I would say proceed at once and have the matter attended to.

Very truly yours,

Claude L. Chambers

CLC/B

CLAUDE L. CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

July 15, 1924

Mr. Ed. Fletcher
Fletcher Building, 920 - 8th Street
San Diego, California

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

Replying to your letter of July 11th, I agree with you that we should render an account of our stewardship, letting the S.L. Studios stockholders know what we have found in regard to the affairs of this trust estate and also what we have done.

I presume what we have done has been pretty well advertised, but perhaps not correctly reported.

I will be glad to come over to your office some day this week late in the afternoon and confer with you. Will call you up and try and arrange such a meeting.

Very truly yours,

Claude L. Chambers

CLC/B

August 1, 1924.

Mr. Claude Chambers,
U. S. National Bank Bldg.,
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Chambers:

Inclosed find bill for insurance also bill
of \$79.50 for watchman's clock and express on same.

Kindly make out a check to C. M. Tobin, 561 Spreckels
Bldg. for \$79.50, and mail us a check for \$500.

There will be a rebate coming on insurance just
as soon as we can install the 4" pipeline.

Yours very truly,

EF:AH

CLAUDE L. CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

August 12, 1924

Mr. Ed Fletcher
916 - 8th Street
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

Inclosed herewith please find check of
S. L. Studios, in the sum of \$250.00, to apply
on the fire insurance on the studio building.

Very truly yours,

Claude L. Chambers
per AB

CLC/B

by J. L. Gardner

CLAUDE L. CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

August 19, 1924

Mr. Ed Fletcher
920 Eighth Street
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

On July 3rd you wrote me in regard to the roof on the S. L. Studio building at Grossmont. At the next meeting of the Board of Trustees I took this matter up with them, and it was turned over to Mr. White to investigate.

Mr. White evidently took the matter up with the architects, as I received a call from Mr. Quayle of Quayle Bros., Architects, and one of the contractors. These gentlemen informed me that this roof was made particularly strong, and the rumour to the contrary was absolutely without foundation. Mr. Quayle said that in order to make the matter interesting, he was willing to allow any competent engineer to be selected to make an examination, and if he reported that this roof was faulty, he would pay the said engineer's fees, and also suggested that he would like to wager \$100 with you on the side that you had been wrongly informed.

If you have any further suggestions to make in this matter, would be glad to hear from you.

Very truly yours,

Claude L. Chambers

CLC/B

August 22, 1924.

Judge Claude Chambers,
U. S. National Bank Bldg.,
San Diego, California.

My dear Judge:

Inclosed find letter from Whaley that is explanatory.

I think the quicker we get out a concise statement of the facts to date the better, and believe it is coming to the one hundred seventy odd stockholders. I think we might add to the letters of explanation sent out to the stockholders a question asking if they are in favor of raising the necessary \$25,000 to equip the studio and will they pay their pro-rate, and put in a postal card for an answer.

Yours very truly,

EF:AH

August 23, 1924.

Mr. Claude Chambers,
U. S. National Bank Bldg.,
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Chambers:

Inclosed find copy of letter and my
answer in reply which I hope meets with your
approval.

Yours very truly,

EF:AH

CLAUDE L. CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

August 23, 1924

Mr. Ed. Fletcher
920 Eighth Street
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of
August 22, and it received my careful consideration. I
agree with you that we should either communicate with the
stockholders by sending them a circular letter setting
forth what progress the present Board of Trustees have
made, or call a meeting of the stockholders and inform them
in this manner. I presume that if a meeting were called
it would only result in a lot of quarrelling, and probably
the former proposition would be the best.

I will endeavor to work up such a letter in the early
part of the week, outlining as far as possible what steps
have been taken by the present Board of Trustees, and submit
the same to the members of the Board for their approval.

If you have any suggestions in regard to pertinent
points which you think should be included in this letter,
kindly let me have them by return mail.

Very truly yours,

Claude L. Chambers

CLC/B

September 23, 1924.

Mr. Claude L. Chambers,
U. S. National Bank Bldg.,
San Diego, California.

My dear Judge:

Answering yours of August 23d, these are the points that I would bring out in a letter to the stockholders if I were you.

State that the investigation of the books by our experts show that the S. L. Studios took in so much money from the sale of stock. To show for that today we only have the following equity:

The present building -- its estimated cost by a board of appraisers being approximately \$40,000, with a mortgage of \$_____.

The trustees of the S. L. Studios were given unlimited powers to spend money and they certainly did it like water.

There are so many shares of stock outstanding today, both preferred and common.

The original trustees all resigned, after appointing Messrs. Hart, Loring and Wells the three trustees out of five. The last mentioned trustees then entered into a written agreement with Mr. Sawyer whereby he was relieved of all liability in consideration of turning back his 3,000 shares of stock and the three trustees last mentioned, in consideration of that agreed to pay to Sawyer _____ shares of stock to cancel an obligation due A. H. Sawyer for monies advanced amounting to \$_____.

That we placed this matter in the hands of the district attorney, furnished him all the information and asked him to present the matter to the Grand Jury. The district attorney could see no reason for taking criminal action and the matter was dropped.

Mr. Sawyer has no available assets to our knowledge, has left California for good, was for three or four months in a sanitarium and is understood to be a financial wreck.

CLAUDE L. CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

October 8, 1924

Dear Sir:

I am herewith inclosing copy of letter which I received today from Mr. Whaley, watchman at the Studio at Crossmont.

I am also inclosing copy of my letter to him in reply thereto, for your information.

Very truly yours,

Claude L. Chambers
B.

CLC/B

The trustees made a lease with Arnett and Jensen on _____, term of lease to be as follows:

(lease)

\$ _____ was paid on the lease but the monthly rental payments have not been paid. The trustees are bringing suit to force the payment under the terms of the lease.

When the trustees took over the management of the S. L. Studio affairs, we found it in debt to the following amount -- \$ _____. We have since that time reduced the indebtedness (here explain what exchanges have been made and then show the amounts of money still due).

I suggest a statement along these lines be prepared and this is just for your guidance, adding anything that you want to.

Yours sincerely,

EF:KLM

CHARLES J. CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1000 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 10, N.Y.

CLAUDE L. CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

February 26, 1925

Mr. Ed Fletcher
920 - 8th Street
San Diego, California

My dear Col. Fletcher:

I have read with considerable interest the copy of the letter addressed to you signed by Robert Hart which was left in my office. I presume you have already received and read the original.

Mr. Hart called this matter to my attention some time back, and I told him frankly that while I realized that he was a heavy loser, he was no more unfortunate proportionately than any of the other stockholders of S. L. Studios, and because he held a majority of the stock was no reason why he should be issued a larger amount of stock proportionately than any one else. I called his attention at that time to the case of a client of mine who was a widow, and who was induced to mortgage her home to procure \$1500.00 to put into this same matter. I haven't the slightest doubt that this \$1500.00 has been a greater sacrifice on her part than the \$50,000.00 Mr. Hart invested. Further than that, quite a sum of this \$50,000.00 was stock which Mr. Hart received from Mr. Sawyer in a settlement which was recently made for notes which he held against Mr. Sawyer personally, and for which he was under no obligation to take stock.

I remember very distinctly some months back, when Mr. Hart was selling securities as he mentions in this letter at short notice in order to realize hurry money, and at that time I informed Mr. Hart of information which I had received, and advised him against putting this money into the S. L. Studios. Mr. Hart's reply to me was that he wished these Bankers in San Diego would mind their own business.

I cannot see where the mortgagees have profited by the overtures of Mr. Hart. Had they foreclosed their mortgage, Mr. Hart's \$50,000.00 of stock would not have been worth a dollar. This they had a perfect legal right to do, and could have done a long time ago.

I personally have the highest regard for Mr. Hart, and regret very much that he has been compelled to lose such large sums of money as a result of poor investments. However, in this particular case they were of such a nature that it could have been easily ascertained that they were a poor investment, and I see no legal or just reason why Mr. Hart should be treated any differently than any other stockholder of S. L. Studios, large or small.

I have very carefully gone into this matter from the standpoint of a disinterested party so far as owning any stock is concerned, and I could not suggest a more fair or equitable solution of the present problem than the one proposed.

I do not know that I am called upon to write this letter, but I feel that you should have the benefit at least of my opinion in regard to these matters. I do know this; that if any different arrangement was made with Mr. Hart than was made with any of the other stockholders, it would bring about the heads of the Trustees as well as yourself, a hornet's nest which would very probably defeat the entire plan as we have worked it out.

Very truly yours,

Claude L. Chambers

CLC/B

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 4 Folder: 30

General Correspondence - Chambers, Claude L.



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