

July 14, 1951

Mr. Ross,  
Managing Editor  
Life Magazine,  
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Mr. Ross:-

Following our telephone conversation of Monday regarding the information on the Rio Grande story, I have given it some thought. I am not clear on one angle of it and I hope I can present it from my point of view. You told me that you were going to use some of Peter Hurd's paintings for Paul Horgan's forthcoming book. In view of the fact that this will give a big boost to another book on the same subject and that my information would go for other photographers to use, I feel that either I should be given both credit and remuneration for it, or be given the assignment. I know that your magazine often does use other than staff photographers for special assignments and it does seem that this particular story is due me. I spent some four and half years of hard work and study on the RIO GRANDE STORY, and I know the river well, and many people the full length who were of great assistance. Of course were I given the assignment, I would follow your directives and make the photographs in the LIFE manner, so to speak, stressing whatever angles you desire. I am sure that I could complete such an assignment by next spring, say June, which would give spring material in certain regions. I know one story within the story within the story which I wanted badly for my book, but it had not progressed to a sufficient stage to be usable then. It should be now, and I am considering doing it on a free lance basis.

It is my sincere hope that I may be considered for this assignment, and though I am at work on a new book, I can sandwich this in quite easily as I know when and where to go in a hurry.

Very truly yours,