

Feb. 17,
1970

Mr. Ansel Adams,
Carmel,
California.

Dear Ansel:-

Yesterday morning I mailed you my long delayed christmas card, and in the note told you of the loss of my Navaho show. Late yesterday afternoon, my lawyer came by bringing a letter from the Emery Air Freight regarding my claim. They are wanting to know the name of "some reliable photographer" to whom they can write regarding my replacement values. I have given your name and I trust that you will be willing to speak for me. The show consisted of 151 prints, the best I could make, mounted etc. in sizes ranging from 8x10 to 16 by 20. There were 14 big photo murals made by Mr. Welcher (excellent, most of them). These were in a crate which was not lost and I now have them here, so these are not involved in my claim. There was a declared value of \$7500. on the shipment. In addition to the value of the prints, I have lost out on the purpose of the whole show which was a promotion for my book. It was scheduled for Oklahoma City to the Western Heritage Center where my book won an award last April for a non fiction book. Western Heritage organization consists of the 11 western state. This would have been a very valuable show for me. Then it was scheduled for Colorado Springs. No other confirmed showings had been booked. I was supposed to get a fee of \$250. (on advice of M. Wilder at Amon Carter where this show originated. This loss occurred on or immediately after Sept 6th 69.

For three months we did not hear a word from the Emery Air Freight. Now they are discussing settlement, and we hope without our having to bring suit. The show had been at the Riverside Museum in New York, who are the ones who shipped it. From all the tales one hears about the thefts from Kennedy Air Port, this seems to have happened to me.

In sending in the list of prints with replacement prices, I valued these as of production costs of today's higher cost of materials, at \$25, 30, 40 and

\$100. There were 9 16x20s @ \$100. all difficult ones to print. 26 16x20s @ \$75. 3 14x18 color prints .

New Mexico is blossoming out with photographic galleries. Anne Dietz in Albuquerque, P22 gallery here in SE. and "One Lose Eye"(!) in Taos. The first two have been selling prints for me at \$25. \$35, and \$50. But with the discount these prices are not enough and I am making a change.

All this simply to tell you where I stand on this pricing business which I know much too little about.

At my lawyer's suggestion we are claiming \$8000. to cover loss of the prints and the loss of fees and shows etc. We have sent them a copy of the book to see.

If as and when I do collect I shall get myself a Sinar a new enlarger, and rebuild my 8x10. Then start all over again. But in the meantime much time is lost on Navaho business and I want to go on to new work, so perhaps the best thing for me to do is to forget this whole business and try to produce a new book that will come much closer to my wishes than the last.

And before I stop. I don't think I said a word in my note yesterday thanking you for your New Year's card. Very fine as always, Ansel, and again my very best wishes.