File

February 25, 1948.

Memo of Conference with Mr. Wilson, Assistant to the President of United World Films.

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I stated that, before discussing the best method of getting a release or other evidence to satisfy them no trouble would arise from Smart, I wished him to read the draft of a letter Mrs. Dorr had prepared for Dance Magazine, reciting the history of the movie, which he did. It was recognized that if this was published, it could cause considerable antagonism by Smart.

I then told Mr. Wilson the story of the "still" deal, i.e. that Smart gave Mrs. Dorr a check for $1,000 to purchase 20 pictures at $50.00 each and had accepted some with no question, before the movie was taken. After work on the movie ceased, he stated he could not use these pictures without a release, which he submitted and which was regarded by a competent lawyer as impossible for her to sign or to get any subject to sign. He was offered what would have been regarded as a satisfactory release, somewhat broader than she was accustomed to providing with her pictures, and refused to accept the pictures with that release. Without offering to complete the agreement under which the movie was made and pay her expenses to Chicago, Smart attempted to collect a part of the $1,000 and, acting on the advice of our attorney, no action was taken. He evidently concluded it was impossible to make such collection and nothing more was heard from him. This statement was made to Mr. Wilson to give him a full understanding of the attitude of Smart when contact was broken off. He was not interested in methods of defending a suit that Smart might bring but only in the greatest assurance that he would not bring such a suit.

We discussed -

1. Asking directly for a formal release but quoting his letters releasing the film to us.

2. Speaking of wanting to go ahead and asking Smart to change his mind and make a contribution towards the picture's development on the theory that, at such a request, he would again restate that he had no interest in it.

3. Claiming the release but offering him something if the film makes anything but not asking him for a formal release.

4. Sending a letter of introduction to him by Erica, who might well carry a letter covering two or three other matters, with the film as incidental, anticipating that, in this way, she would bring back his attitude. It might be easier to have him make renewed statements to her that would deter him from taking any action thereafter when he heard the picture had been produced.

J.V.N.D.