



ELIOT PORTER

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13 November 1986

Mr. Colby Whitmore, President
Eastman Kodak Company
343 State Street
Rochester, N. Y. 14650

Dear Mr. Whitmore:

I have just received a letter from Frank McLaughlin informing me of his retirement from Eastman Kodak Company. His reason for retirement was his transfer from the Dye Transfer Department to Publications because of critical statements about Eastman products found in some of his letters by his assistant Murray Patton who rifled his private files while McLaughlin was on vacation. Aside from such outrageous action by Mr. Patton, which should receive unqualified condemnation, not rewarded as apparently was done, I find Eastman Kodak's reaction an extraordinary example of hyper-sensitivity to criticism even when justified and privately given. Does Eastman Kodak claim never to err?

I have known McLaughlin for many years in his professional capacity as a loyal supporter of Eastman Kodak and a dedicated promoter of what he has described as the beautiful old Dye Transfer process. He has always given unstinting advice and assistance to me and to other photographers who prefer this process above all others. He has interceded for me with Kodak whenever I have been confronted with defective products which has occurred all too often. If that kind of help is considered damaging to Eastman Kodak's reputation then I must conclude that its standards of performance and ethical conduct have need of improvement.

Sincerely,

Eliot Porter

c.c. Frank McLaughlin