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January 6, 1954

Dr. Selman A. Waksman
35 Walter Avenue
New Brunswick, N. J.

Dear Dr. Waksman:

After re-reading chapter XVII of your autobiography, I feel even more strongly that the whole Schatz affair should be told. I should like to see it related in a separate chapter with all the background material, so that the world may know the facts, and the matter may finally be settled. If you don't reveal them, the facts may never be brought to light, and Schatz's pretenses and pretensions* may never be exposed.

I think you ought to tell the full story, as you related it on Sunday, mentioning, in addition to the matter included at pages 422-429:

> The circumstances under which Schatz** came to you for help after his release from and unhappy experience in the army; the developments in your work before Schatz became your assistant; your kindness to Schatz; the "theft" of his notebook; your recommending him to several positions and his inability or failure to retain any of them for any appreciable period; the details of the settlement; your insistance that other of your students be rewarded; and finally Schatz's law suit against his own attorneys (I am having the records checked now).

It isn't necessary to characterize Schatz or to state your opinion of him. A simple, factual statement will reveal his true character.

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* The fly sat upon the axle-tree of a chariot wheel and said, "What a dust do I raise!"

** He should be identified by name, not referred to as a "former student."

Date: January 6, 1954

To: Dr. Selman A. Waksman No. 2

I suppose I ought to repeat the caveat that Schatz may, if the story is in print, bring a suit for libel, even though there is no basis for it. For that reason it would be wiser to exclude any fact that cannot be documented. If Schatz were so unwise as to bring suit, it would, of course, be most unpleasant; but it might be to your ultimate advantage, for the result would be predictable.

You do refer, at page 425, to your giving up your royalties, etc. I think that section could be expanded and put in context. Some people may have been led to believe by the law suit, and the news reports, that you induced Schatz to assign his interest in the patent in order to secure some private financial gain. The facts that you first transferred all your interest in the patent, then demanded that the part returned to you be halved, and then gave away half of the small share retained, should be stated in refutation. (There is a brief sentence to that effect on page 425, but you leave too much to be inferred by the reader.) You should indicate the size of the fortune you donated in the interests of science; and unless you think it too personal a matter, you might indicate the extent of your personal savings at the time you assigned your rights in the patent.

Now, a few minor details:

Is it necessary, at page 422, to include the statement about your former student? It was a single incident of that kind in 35 years of teaching; the reference to it magnifies its importance.

P. 423, line 17 - delete the sentence beginning, "To call this claim preposterous, scandalous, etc.", and substitute something to this effect, "I will not dignify the charge by refutation." Schatz or his counselors might claim that the adjectives are libellous. For the same reason, delete, in paragraph 4, page 425, the word "moral."

P. 424, delete the sentence, "The university paid us our salary ... etc." For reasons you explained to me, it would be unwise to give substance to any claim that the university had any legal right to the royalties.

Also delete the sentence beginning, "There were two", 7 lines from the bottom of page 426. The reference to the one or two disgruntled students might give credence to Schatz's lies, - and detracts from the important fact that virtually all of your students came to your support.

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Date: January 6, 1954

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I hope you will not think it presumptuous of me to make these suggestions.

With kindest regards from Pearl and myself to you and Mrs. Waksman,

Sincerely,

EPHRAIM S. LONDON

L:M

P.S. The 3 volumes were delivered today to Max Schuster.