

August 21, 1961

TO: Morris Kasper and Walter Fried  
FROM: Al Bisno  
SUBJECT: Fischer-Reshevsky Chess Match.

I would like to give you my thoughts regarding action to be taken by your committee in connection with the failure of Fischer to complete the match.

1. There is no question but that the ruling awarding the match to Reshevsky was fully justified. In accordance with the contract terms Reshevsky should be paid the winner's share of the \$3,500. remaining, or, \$2,275. (provided, of course, that that money is available which I believe it is)
2. It would not be right to give Fischer his loser's share or \$1,225. Those who provided the money for this match did it with the understanding that Fischer was going to play sixteen games in accordance with his signed contract and to pay him his loser's share would result in rewarding one for flagrant violation of his own contract and obligation.
3. The committee might set aside this \$1,225. for a psychiatrist. Every effort should be made to induce Fischer to submit to examination by competent doctors who can make a report as to Fischer's mental condition and what is required under the circumstances. I think it would be premature to make too many decisions regarding the future of Fischer until more was known as to the true nature of his mental condition and what the specialists recommend. (Mr. and Mrs. Grumette who were undoubtedly closer to Fischer than anyone else in Los Angeles, including myself, are strongly in favor of doing everything possible to have psychiatrists examine Fischer and make a report and your committee should go a little slow in making decisions until that report comes in)
4. If, in spite of every effort made, Fischer refuses to submit to examination by psychiatrists and it is found impossible otherwise to force him to submit to such examination, it is my thought that the committee should make the following decisions:
  - a. Fischer should receive no part of the loser's share of \$1225. since he violated his contract and is not entitled to it. However, that money might be set aside for psychiatric examination and treatment if at a future date Fischer will submit to some examination or can possibly be made to submit to such an examination.
  - b. The committee should exert its influence wherever needed to deprive Fischer of any rights to compete in the coming Rosenwald Tournament for the championship of the United States.
  - c. Recommendation should be made to the United States Chess Federation and through the Federation to the FIDE to withdraw all rights of Fischer to participate in any FIDE authorized European tournaments including the coming Yugoslavian Tournament, the Candidates Tournament and such other tournaments.

5. The committee should retain jurisdiction and reserve the right to make such changes in the present decisions and to make such new recommendations in the future as the situation at that time would seem to require.

It is not unlikely that when the Russians hear about this they will try to make propoganda favorable to them and unfavorable to us. They may even induce Fischer to deflect to Russia or one of their satellites. The position of your committee should be, not necessarily what other people or countries think or do but rather what is right and proper, under the circumstances according to the committee's best judgment.

It might be a good idea that the committee which is considering these questions, be enlarged to include:

1. Some good Chess player who is also an M.D. or an expert on mental diseases, perhaps a man like Dr. Reuben Fine or some other doctor who may be known.
2. I do not know if he would accept it, but I hope he would, a man like Lessing J. Rosenwald, who is undoubtedly the largest single contributor to Chess progress in the United States. Mr. Rosenwald is a man of wisdom and experience and his opinion on these matters that will be taken up could be invaluable.
3. A prominent member of the United States Chess Federation like former president, Jerry Spann.

Up to now Chess in the United States as been as clean as a hound's tooth without a breath of scandal appearing anywhere and this is the first time the American Chess Fraternity has been confronted with a problem that has developed from the "enigmatic case of Bobby Fischer".

The action your committee takes may be a precedent for good that will live for generations to come in the realm of the King, Queen and Pawn and those decisions should be made with deliberation and with wisdom, albeit they should be forthright and courageous.

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