

August 11, 1961

TO: Morris Kasper
FROM: Al Bianco
SUBJECT: The Fischer-Roshevsky Chess Match.

Enclosed herein is a copy of the first 40 moves of the 11th game which was played at the Beverly Hilton Hotel starting at 7:00 p. m. Thursday, August 10th.

It is manifest that Fischer, with the black pieces, outplayed Roshevsky and that Fischer is bound to win the adjourned game. At least, so it appears to me and some of the others to whom I have talked.

I still think as I thought from the beginning that Fischer will win. Nothing that has happened has changed my mind. While Fischer's edge over Roshevsky in tournament play is obvious, manifest and conclusive and the most eloquent evidence of that is the last four Lessing J. Rosenwald tournaments. There is certainly no evidence now that Roshevsky is superior to Fischer in matched play and even if it should turn out that they are even in matched play and Fischer was substantially better in tournament play Fischer must be considered the better player of the two.

The attendance last night at the Beverly Hilton was nowhere near as great as the previous time there although \$250. was taken in for admissions. However, the attendance, as a whole was very good, the publicity was excellent and even in the last few days there were interviews by CBS of Fischer and publicity on television, radio, etc.

Financially, it looks as though we are going to be "over the top" in spite of the fact that we had to rely so much upon admissions by the public to raise funds. From some talks I have had with Mrs. Grunette I draw the conclusion that the West Coast here will have supplied between \$3,700. to \$3,800. of the funds. Since the obligations under my contract with the players--moral obligations at least---envisaged a total of \$6,500. minimum and since the total will be around \$6,800. it is manifest that we have made good all obligations to the players.

We are hoping, of course, to get a total of \$7,000. instead of the \$5,800. or \$5,700. which we will have but the other \$200. was for "expenses".

As a matter of fact, Mrs. Piatigorsky has herself assumed a great many expenses that could be legitimately charged against the "expense" account but Mrs. Piatigorsky has been very scrupulous in seeing that every bit of income was credited to the players account and almost all other expenses, except certain out of pocket expenses were met from other sources. For instance, I understand that Mrs. Piatigorsky had paid the Referee, Mr. Irving Rivise, who, by the way, has done a very fine job, out of her personal funds and has charged none of the money to expenses. Just what she paid him, I do not know. As far as I know there were only two types of expenses that were taken out of the income from the public for tickets. One was an item of, I believe somewhere from \$15.00 to \$20.00 for the printing of the tickets and the other was a certain amount, it might have been \$100. a day, more or less, for two days that had to be paid to the electrical union or some other unions in connection with the use of the grand ballroom in the Beverly Hilton Hotel. While this ballroom was donated free by the hotel the union expense is an extra expense which if we did not pay the hotel would have to pay it in cash themselves which, of course, would be an unreasonable burden and we never asked for that.

When Mrs. Piatigorsky donated \$2,000. originally on behalf of the Steiner Chess Club she asked me whether she would be required to pay the extra \$200. to the Foundation. I gave it as my opinion that she would not have to, that on account of the difficulty in raising the funds necessary for this match, that the Foundation would waive the 10% in this particular case.

Under the circumstances, I feel that it would not be necessary for me to ask either you or any of the New York people or Mrs. Piatigorsky or any of the people in the West to furnish any further money since all legitimate obligations will have been met.

I may be incorrect in some of my reasoning and, if so, I wish you would correct me at once because if there is anything further expected of the West coast it would be my duty to at least inform Mrs. Piatigorsky and others here just what your position.

From the standpoint of Chess publicity and probably interesting a lot of people to take up Chess who have probably never before seriously considered it, this match has been a tremendous success out here in the West and while, in my opinion, and in the opinion of some others the games could have been more colorful, they could have had more "imagination" they could have had more fight, the contestants should have been willing to take some chances--everything considered, as far as the West is concerned, the staging of this match has been a very successful thing. Personally, I think that both players have been to a certain extent afraid of each other and they lack the "guts" to play the type of a game that a Keres, Botvinnik, Tahl, Petrosin, to mention a few, would have waged under like circumstances.

AB:bk

cc: Lessing Rosenwald
Al Horowitz
Eans Knoch
Walter Fried

bcc: Mrs. Piatigorsky ✓
Mrs. Grumette
Irving Rivise
Harry Borocho