

The United States Chess Federation

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President
FRANK R. GRAVES
202 Farm & Home Bldg.
Fort Worth, Texas

Mr. Neil T. Austin
1608 42nd Street
Sacramento, California.

Dear Mr. Austin:

Just received your letter of the 8th for which I am truly grateful as it offers a possible ray of light through these cloudy skies.

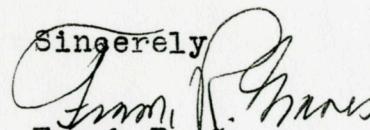
I have never had the pleasure of personal acquaintance with Mr. McClain, but have known him through Chess circles and have had some correspondence with him since the deplorable situation which arose at New Orleans, and I have formed a very high opinion of him and feel confident that we will be able to work together toward clearing up this nasty mess.

I shall not discuss the several points in the famous letter of July 27th, but will say that when Mr. Alexander appeared on the scene at New Orleans, after a wide circulation of the letter, which I will say at least was carelessly prepared and widely circulated, I spent two hours with Mr. Alexander in an effort to clarify the different points raised, and apparently Mr. Alexander was considerably relieved. Other officers and members of USCF also talked with Mr. Alexander and we thought we had him well satisfied, but unfortunately Mr. Alexander is easily influenced by such malcontents as one Norman T. Whitaker, and a few of his ilk and the result was, that in the membership meeting that unfortunate resolution of criticism of Montgomery Major was adopted by a vote of 28 to 3, with approximately 50 persons present and about 20 declining to vote either way. The aftermath of that resolution has indeed been very distasteful and to me is absolutely nauseating.

I have been in correspondence, by mail and long distance telephone, with the Ways and Means Committee of which A. Wyatt Jones of Shreveport is Chairman, and we are unanimous in our desire and attempt to hush up the whole matter and get down to constructive lines of building a better Federation. I have the assurance from Mr. Major that the issue of October 20th which is already made up, will contain the last printed word in Chess Life referring to the New Orleans affair, and I sincerely hope that is true.

During the past year, after I was informed by the nominating committee that they desired to nominate me as President, it was my earnest dream that if, as and when elected I would devote much time in an effort to reconcile whatever differences existed between USCF and the California Chess Association and other Chess organizations of the western states. Over a period of several years I have had some knowledge of the differences, and hoped that I could be instrumental in adjusting all of those misunderstandings and bring about a complete amalgamation of the several chess organizations to the advancement of USCF. To say that I suffered a severe shock over the New Orleans debacle would be expressing it entirely too mild, never the less, I still have hopes of accomplishing some good, and the tone of your letter leads me to believe that with your assistance and the influence of Mr. McCain and other leaders in the West we may yet accomplish something.

With very kindest personal regards. I am,

Sincerely

Frank R. Graves.

FRG-m.